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AGRICULTURE



VOLUME XV, No. 1

March 26, 1942.

HEMISPERIC SOLIDARITY

A successful drive for one hundred charter members was celebrated by The Americas Society with a fiesta featuring Latin American entertainment.

The Americas Society, organized to encourage appreciation of the culture of the American Republics, is governed by a board of seven trustees, six of whom are U. S. Government employees, notably: Carlos Hernandez of the Department of Agriculture, José T. Ibanez and Arnaldo Berenguer of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Lt. Gordon W. Ross of the Army Signal Corps, Mrs. Theresa Venn Benson of the Pan American Union staff, and Dee G. Davis, formerly of the State Department Foreign Service. The seventh trustee is Mrs. Katharine Valdes-Rodriguez, wife of the Counselor of the Cuban Embassy.

The Society's program includes a monthly social function; a monthly lecture delivered in Spanish; and a weekly Spanish conversational evening. Great stress is placed on knowledge and use of the Spanish language since it is recognized that this is an important prerequisite to development of appreciation of the art, music, and literature of the Latin American nations, as well as an understanding of their political and economic policies.

The Society has scheduled a lecture by the Reverend Nunez of Costa Rica, dealing with the labor movement in Latin America, to be held in the Department of Commerce Auditorium on Wednesday evening, March 25, at 8 o'clock. A dance is being planned to celebrate Pan American Day. This will be held on April 12 at the American Legion D.C. Department Clubhouse. Arrangements are being made to present a Pan American Airways film called "Land of the Incas."

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ARA

Ordinarily ARA, your recreational organization, begins each year with nothing really new about it except the officers; and some of them have quite a remarkable growth of seniority whiskers. But this year things are decidedly new and different: There's a war on.

The ARA officers for 1942 took over on March 4 in an atmosphere that makes it especially difficult to plan and execute a recreational program. And yet, nearly everyone agrees that in times of stress and to offset the exacting demands of extra work and longer hours, the need for recreational opportunity is even greater than under ordinary conditions.

In recent months the local papers have had much to say about the need for doing something about the recreational requirements of the thousands of newly-employed Government people. This concern is

EXCERPT FROM A MEMO OF SECRETARY WICKARD TO AGRICULTURE EMPLOYEES

Your Contribution To The War Program

I would like to emphasize to all employees of this Department that the classes set up by the Budget Bureau do not place any agency in the category of not contributing to the war program. We should not feel that because the particular bureau or agency in which we are located has been placed in class 5 that we are not doing everything possible to help win the war. Many of the agencies grouped in class 5, for instance, are contributing directly to the war program. These activities are not spectacular, it is true. We do not help to produce tanks, planes, machine guns and bullets, but we do help to produce food, and enough food to feed the military and civilian population is just as important as tanks and planes.

I have said time after time that food will win this war and write the peace, and I am more convinced of the truth of that statement as the days go by. I would like all of you to remember that the Department of Agriculture and every single employee in it will be a factor in helping to win this war.

shared by Federal officials responsible for the efficiency and morale of departmental employees. The Office of Personnel of the Department of Agriculture is ready to actively sponsor as broad a recreational program for our employees as can possibly be devised under existing conditions.

At first glance, the job seems almost too difficult to undertake. The longer hours discourage before-supper gatherings; playing fields are disappearing under temporary structures. Still the need for group activity is greater than it ever has been.

In order that ARA may be in the best possible position to cooperate with the Department officials interested in promoting employee activities, in spite of heat and high water, I urge two basic lines of action (1) active support by Department employees of existing ARA units, and (2) vigorous recruiting by those units of new people interested in their particular field of activity. Any ARA officer will be glad to help in making such contacts, and more facts about ARA will appear in future issues of the Exchange. I am confident that it is possible to give Agriculture the best Departmental recreational organization in the City.

John L. Stewart,
President, ARA

THE AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE
4403 SOUTH BUILDING
PUBLISHED BY
THE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Sophia Podolsky Editor
SIGNED CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY - Subject to Revision

DO NOT PHONE OR CALL ----- WRITE
WITH THE EDITOR

This is as good a time as any to put in an editorial plug for cooperation. We need more than Motor Travel responses to make an Exchange. And we can't keep needling our pals into contributions, or they won't love us. This green sheet needs B₁ complex and blood plasma and sticks and stones and an occasional camellia, or it'll just atrophy and turn into a vestigial organ without ever developing into a virile organ for employee voices.

Not long ago we requested revised schedules of various employee activities. A half-dozen replies filtered in, but not enough to yield a calendar that would be any kind of a "what to do this week" guide. We still want this information. So write us--pieces, letters, poetry (why not?) and find it in your hearts to forgive us if we revise, for we're close-spanned for space, and paper's short. And please--por favor--for reasons politic, don't call. WRITE... and sign your stuff.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Now we are to learn how to answer the telephone. Ten of us sat around a table with teacher at the head. Teacher was a neat package. Chosen for articulation, personality, - and prolific with suggestions. "The telephone company," she said, "is cooperating with the Government in finding time-savers--to give us time to do more jobs, to take less time contacting." All with a lovely lilt and beautiful phrasing.

Rather than a mere "Hello," we must say, "Navy, Division Operations, Miss Johnson." Teacher had forgotten she was now at Agriculture. That wasn't charming, teacher. But maybe things were pleasant at Navy. Not

charming, for more reasons, think I. I can put tones of eagerness, efficiency, or amiability into a simple "Hello." I've said "Hello" since before Washington. Into, "Solicitor's Office --Miss Abramson," I can put nothing but hesitation and bluntness.

It's easy for a man to say flatly, "Charlie talking," - or to pick up the receiver with, "USDA, Office of the Solicitor, Docket Office, Room 0379, Ext. 7000, Smitty speakin'--want to make something of it?" But a lady's got to say "Hello."

Of course, if it's terseness and economy we're after, why not just plain "Yes" with a question mark in your voice?

If you're further interested, you'll get the facts in a little booklet, done in red, white, and blue, called "Telephoning for Uncle Sam."

* * * *

GUIDE TO ADMINISTRATIVE WORK
(I'll Contact Joe On That)

To do administrative work in the Government at Washington all you need is an office, a desk with two oak boxes and three buzzer buttons on it, and a secretary in the next room. As soon as you have gotten seated at your desk in the office three huge porters appear to move two strangers in with you, and you sit around a while and silently hate each other. Finally they get your telephone connected. By this time you have learned your secretary's name. They then change the number on your office door. As a result of this and because all the offices and all the secretaries look exactly alike, you get into another office by mistake when you come back from lunch and you work there several days before you discover it isn't yours. Eventually, you get back into your own office. By this time you have a new secretary with a name that sounds like Zrrshvtt, and you are now ready to go to work which leads you to glance at the two oak boxes on your desk. People come into the office periodically and put papers into one of the boxes. It is your job to get them out of that box and into the other one, whence they will go to someone else.

Put the junk in two piles on

top of your desk. Try each day to get most of it changed over from one pile to the other; then you can go home. Next day get most of the stuff back into the other pile, dripping a little into the wastebasket, and dribbling some into the outgoing box. Be sure to check your name off on the list or they will bring it back to you. By this time a new accumulation will be found in the incoming box.

In time the piles get so high you decide to report sick and stay home a few days hoping a lot of the junk will somehow vanish during your absence. It won't. When you come back the pile is two feet high, you have a new secretary, the position of your buzzer buttons is different and your telephone number has been changed, three more desks have been moved into your office, and your name is no longer on the door. There is a note on your desk addressed to Joe. It reads, "It's on my desk, but I haven't had a chance to read it yet. I'm swamped." You open a lower desk drawer and a squirrel hops out. The place where your building is was a park six weeks ago. At this point there is nothing you can do but hold or get into a conference. A conference is a slightly organized method of wasting time. Habitual conferees have unhappy home lives and would rather sit in the office and jaw each other than go home and be jawed. During the average two-hour conference there is a lot of: "I'll contact Joe on that," and "My thought is we better table that for a week." Finally the chairman says: "Let's get together tomorrow for two hours," and you stumble back into your office blind from the poison gas you have been breathing. The piles on your desk have grown still further. The building has only two stories so you can't leap to your death from it. Your secretary would probably shoot you, if she were there, and you asked her, for she is well-trained. Anyhow, it's already ten o'clock so you curl up in the desk drawer and sleep fitfully until dawn when it starts all over again.

CONTRIBUTE TO
THE EXCHANGE

THE PRIME OF LIFE by Gove Hambridge
Doubleday, Doran, 1942

"The future is swollen, pregnant with unborn work."

This is a government worker, speaking, and thinking. This is Gove Hambridge, Editor of the Agriculture Yearbook, who came to the Department for a year and now threatens to remain until the Civil Service Commission retires him for decrepitude.

"This place gets its hooks into you." The work, he means, and his associates, and he means the May day too, and the birds that started at half past four in the morning.

He likes working with government people. He likes their healthy skepticism and tough-mindedness. He decries the existence of the typical bureaucrat and says he does not exist, any more than the typical farmer, the typical scientist, or the typical writer. On the other hand (and we are pleased to note that Mr. H. can see beyond the charmed periphery of his own circle) "There is shirking and time serving in the civil service, of course. There is timidity and conformity. There is petty oppression and office intrigue. On occasion there is cynicism and even cruelty."

Is It The New Deal?

"This place gets its hooks into you." Is it the New Deal that's responsible for the atmosphere in Agriculture? He thinks not. "The Department has broadened out enormously under the New Deal and Henry Wallace and M. L. Wilson, but this tells only a part of the story. There was something vital here long before the days of the New Deal.

That vitality is the teasing needle and forceps, the test tube, and the spirit of Linneaus. It is something pre-Triple A and Commodity Credit. It is something that lives very quietly (no whistling in the halls!) in the East and West wings of the Administration Building, and it wears an acid-stained lab coat.

Gargantua, Jr.

About his own job, Gove Hambridge writes: "I am, for the

time being, an obstetrician who delivers the Department of Agriculture, every twelve months or so, of an infant. It is a large infant, a young Gargantua, that goes by the name of the Yearbook of Agriculture--twelve hundred pages thick, or some four or five hundred thousand words long--equal to quintuplets, as most books go. About a quarter of a million copies are printed each year, and they reach that part of the public which is most actively interested in the primary production of what this Nation eats and wears. No government in the world, so far as I know, publishes anything quite like it. It can draw for authorship on a long list of professional men and women who not only know their stuff but in some cases are among the best in the world to write authoritatively on their particular subjects. It can cover a truly remarkable range of thought and activity."

"So my job has become intensely interesting..." He is not loathe to be an obstetrician, to help the other fellow express his ideas more tellingly. Editing is not a tiresome chore, but a chance to "interpret and breathe life into bigger things than you could do yourself."

Saturday Afternoon

"Well good-bye, Miss Brown. See you Monday morning." Saturday is a half-day. Saturday is time to relax and half forget the past week and the week to come." There is lunch in his backyard instead of waiting in line in one of the official cafeterias. There is a thick toasted cheese sandwich, raw onions and water cress, a pewter mug of milk, a bit of cherry jam, and a pot of coffee. With judas tree and dogwood and forsythia functioning on a spring assembly belt.

Some of the "Boys"

In an hour the "boys" start to drop in for a game of horseshoes. There are Dewitt Wing and Jack Fleming and Jim LeCron and Paul Johnstone and Paul Appleby and Arthur Chew and others.

"Hello, boys, it looks like a gathering of the clan. Do you

mind if I join?" Henry Wallace speaking. The badminton net is strung up (the Vice-President doesn't think he's old enough for horseshoes yet) and he and Hambridge start volleying to get the feel and then there is the batting intensity of quick, straight drives.

On toward 6 o'clock and time for a glass of beer. Henry Wallace, tousled and dripping, must dash off to dress for a dinner engagement. "It was a fine afternoon. Good-by." The others sit around on ground and chairs with mugs of ale (sherry for the wives) and the talk turns to horseshoes, to the war, to anecdotes of the Vice-President. Someone looks at his watch. Gosh it's half past six. Time to get home to dinner.

"In the morning there will be birds to hear."

Adios. The pores of a May evening begin to be plugged with twilight. Redbud and dogwood and birds quiet now.

The lamps make three glowing places in the living room. Debby turns the pages of a book of American paintings, Dorothy reads the last volume of Proust, G.H. sits with a lapboard lying across the arm of the chair. Then there is only one light. Gove Hambridge is alone, writing about a spring day in the prime of life.

MUCH ADO ABOUT BUZZARDS

Coming downtown by bus I often see a flock of buzzards tidy themselves for an air cruise, and silently observing from the tower of an apartment building, the rubber-wheeled flow of human traffic. I've often seen these buzzards sail over and along Rock Creek without flapping a wing. A lay observer has said that atmospheric conditions over a deep cut in the earth enables buzzards to fly over it in their distinctive wide-winged way without any wing-paddling.

Before I was in my "teens" on a farm I spent considerable time hidden in a woods trying to locate a buzzard's nest. I'd often observed a buzzard sailing

(Continued Page 4, Column 3)

MOTOR TRAVEL

TRANSPORTATION OFFERED:

Local: Foxhall Village
(Via P Street)

TRANSPORTATION WANTED:

Pa., Reading	Weekends
Philadelphia	Weekends

Local: Bethesda
13th & Van Buren
Forestville, Md.
Arlington Village
Annandale
Greenbelt
Vienna, Va.
Indian Spring
Fla. and N. H.
From Beltsville

W. Cherrydale (Stafford St. and
Lee Highway)
Clifton Park Village, Silver Sp.
Baltimore to Washington
E. Falls Church to Beltsville

EXCHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION:

Fairfax to Department
18th & Mass. SE, to Beltsville

CLUB NOTES

- CAMERA CLUB presents "Dogs" as subject for next print contest. Bring your prints to the April 3 meeting. For further information refer to Bulletin Board.
- TRIANGLE CLUB, organized in 1914, and composed of Master Masons of the Department, held a dinner meeting on the 19th, after which the members were received by Lafayette Lodge No. 19 on the occasion of its annual "Agriculture Night". W. T. Lucckett, oldest member of the Club, who celebrates his 90th birthday this month, attended. Marvin E. Fowler, BPI, is president of this club, H. R. DuChaine, SCS, is secretary-treasurer.
- CHORAL GUILD, under the leadership of Dr. Walter Bauer, FCA, has set its next rehearsal for Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30. Program for a broadcast to take place during last week of April will be started.

- RIFLE CLUB wins District Rifle League. Next month the Aggies will represent the District in the sectional championship matches. Women's team also successful--they occupy a 2nd place tie position. Pretty good shooters, say we.

• RED CROSS announces that materials for sewing are again available in the Patio. You'll have to hold off with your knitting for a bit.

FDR

They could call themselves "The Wizards of Gauze," but they won't because this is a nameless group that will have no constitution, no platform--neither will they endorse nor condemn-- and whatever is said at their meetings will be "off the record." We'll give you a clue: In speaking of poisons they say FDR (flush, drain, refill) and in unconsciousness they speak of red, white and blue.

Have you guessed? They're the first aid instructors in the Department and they meet monthly with Dr. Fred Rand just to keep in touch with each other and with pressure points.

WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

No. on Payroll	%	Total Purchases
AC&E	262 74	17,680.35
AAA	1,670 50	\$ 52,823.00
Ag.Econ.	628 60.1	30,023.75
AMS	773 82	29,784.15
An.Indus.	548 86	51,444.05
ADR	63 56	1,473.80
CCC	162 73	8,532.95
CEA	74 62.1	6,540.65
Dairy Ind.	222 60.8	7,687.45
E&PQ	318 77	17,289.95
Exp.Sta.	66 68	1,678.15
Ext.Serv.	263 72.5	5,833.55
Farm Cre.	1,101 90	42,575.00
Farm Sec.	960 72	17,221.15
FCIC	192 87.5	3,644.75
FAR	177 64.1	1,377.85
For.Serv.	440 79.9	50,730.20
Hme Econ.	148 58	8,295.50
Info.	232 53	3,626.80
Library	54 85	1,666.95
BPI*	918 69.5	47,862.80
REA	893 72.7	55,592.85
Sol.	554 61	23,963.95
SMA	1,284 52.8	28,333.40
Sec.	728 44	20,038.00
SCS	771 97	47,697.35
Welfare	179 31	984.85
M&O, BRC	210 33.3	7,556.15

Total	\$ 591,959.35
Field	1,989,516.87
Graduate School	15,000.00
Agr. Credit Union	5,000.00
*Agr.Ben. & Rel. As.	29,600.00
(Purch. through BPI)	

Total \$2,631,076.22

BUZZARDS (Con't.)

in springtime over the woods, in which a hurricane had broken off a big, dead, hollow tree. Early one fine morning I took to the woods, where I concealed myself. In a long few minutes the buzzard was visible in circular, flight high overhead and gradually descending. When she alighted on the hollow stump, I was sure that she was close to her eggs or young. Certain, I suppose, that no enemy was near, she descended to her nest. I heard subdued, young voices.

When the mother bird scrambled out of the stump, took the air and disappeared, I hurried to the spot and worked my way down to the nest. In it lay two white-wooled buzzards, as large as Leghorn hens. It would be weeks before they achieved feathers and began to fly.

None of my acquaintances in our neighborhood had seen a young buzzard before it could fly. Locally, the buzzard was called "turkey buzzard." I've spent hours following a turkey to her nest in a thickly wooded, brushy hollow a quarter of a mile from the farmstead. Often she'd see me, and return to the barnlot, apparently much pleased with herself. My mother had ordered me to find the nest. She said that if I couldn't outwit a turkey the sooner I was committed to an institution for the feeble-minded the better. I didn't find that turkey hen's nest until she'd laid 14 eggs in it. That's an indication of how dumb I was long ago, and I'm not so sure I've changed much.

GUNS BEFORE GIRDLES

"To keep our ships on even keel
Takes tons and tons of corset
steel
The die is cast, their fate is
written
The ladies now must bulge for
Britain!"

RUBBER FROM DANDELIONS

Dr. Kolachov tells House Agriculture Committee that he can plant Koksagyz, a Russian cousin of the American dandelion, in April and "have tires in October." (News item)

NEED A SHOESHINE?
FIFTH WING - BASEMENT

1.9

Ag 8/Ae
Cop. 2**AGRICULTURE**

Vol. 15, No. 2

April 11, 1942

SOBRE ASUNTOS LATINOAMERICANOS DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA

Se reconoce que nuestro programa de cooperación agrícola tiene que basarse en un conocimiento cabal de los factores sociales encerrados en él.

Así es que en nuestro Departamento hemos considerado de una importancia primordial la educación de nosotros mismos y de nuestro pueblo, en cuanto a los valores culturales que afectan la vida social de nuestros vecinos en la América.

En nuestra Escuela Graduada se dan cursos en español, portugués, cultura latinoamericana, y materias semejantes, para nuestro personal, y él de otras entidades del Gobierno.

Se celebran almuerzos para los empleados todos los miércoles a las once y media, donde se conversa únicamente en español.

Se han organizado fiestas panamericanas a las cuales se envían exhibiciones de materiales educativos. Estos se emplean para interpretar la vida de los países latinoamericanos a nuestra gente de las regiones agrícolas. Se calcula que más de 250,000 personas han participado en estas fiestas.

Al mismo tiempo, publicamos una revista mensual en inglés, titulada "Agriculture in the Americas" que lleva artículos en una forma popular, sobre los países y productos de las otras repúblicas americanas.

Esperamos que estos esfuerzos modestos contribuyan a cimentar las bases de una verdadera comprensión interamericana. P.L.G.

American farmers are saying: "An egg a day will keep the Axis away." Nazi farmers are giving their hens the hot foot to comply with a statute requiring 200 eggs a year -- or else.

CONCERNING THE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Long before the G.O.P. lost control of our national destinies, a group of progressively-minded employees in Agriculture formed a small beneficial association. Incorporation as the present Welfare Association came in 1923, with financial relief still the main function. However, the Association did not get into the big-time circuit until 1933, when the permit to run the cafeterias in the new South Building was granted.

The founding fathers realized that there are hundreds of people who are perfectly good financial risks, but do not qualify for the usual type of commercial loan. Emergencies arise where, even though the people concerned are eligible for commercial loans, the time involved in making necessary arrangements is too short to meet the emergency. In other cases, the person in distress constitutes an opportunity for consideration on humanitarian grounds alone. It was among these groups that the Welfare Association planned to do its main work. This was before the Agricultural Employees Credit Union was available as a source of low-cost loans for our employees.

Over the years, the Welfare Association has expanded into fields of activity beyond the imagination of its originators. Today the Association operates the following projects:

CAFETERIAS, 4th, 5th and 6th Wings of 6th Floor, South Bldg.
LUNCH ROOM, between 3rd and 4th Wings, 6th Floor, South Bldg.
SERVICE DINING ROOMS, 6th to 7th Wings, 6th Floor, South Bldg.
 (All of these face C Street)

PANTRY SHELF, Basement, C Street Head House, South Bldg.

LUNCH ROOM, Basement, Independence Ave., Head House
LUNCH ROOM, Basement, Wing 2, South Bldg.

WELFARE STORE AND LUNCH COUNTER Basement, Administration Bldg.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND CAFETERIA, Beltsville, Maryland
DINING ROOM AND DORMITORY, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

MT. WEATHER CONFERENCE FACILITY Mt. Weather, Md.

SHOE SHINE STAND, Basement, Adm.

Who gets the money from all of these operations? After meeting the necessary managerial and labor costs, the profits are divided equally between the U.S.

(cont'd page 2, column 3)

AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE - ROOM 4403
Sophia Podolsky Editor

Set for a few paragraphs on spring, the blizzard came. So instead of transplanting violets we stayed in until Miriam dragged us out to scoop snow from the sidewalk while the fresh snow made a light mat behind us as we scooped in front. Neighbor Mar-gold mildly chided us for tossing snow on his azalea (already quite mounded!); and Elliot spent the morning gently poking snow off the dogwood tree with a pole. The electricity was cut off, and the telephone too. And there was no heat because the furnace is connected with something that I don't understand about.

Inside a fireplace blazed. Supper was by one purple candle. Bean soup with sherry, tomatoes from Mexico, cold meats, (we had planned a spring meal) avocados and romaine. There was the thud of snow falling off the roof, the toasting of the fire, and a laziness over all, as if tomorrow weren't Monday, and the magazine going to press. Our guest recited from Whittier's Snowbound, our very most favorite poem of years ago. Tomorrow there will be slush and wet feet and traffic tie-ups. Today we are comfortably snowed in. Today, forgotten dreams are awakened.

Now, five days later, is the ripening of spring into summer. Now the tenderest green pulses from the earth. Now is the hour when if ever the heart should be light and tinkling with song. The heart should be a marimba rippling with song. But with all the lowness and sweetness and crayon softness there is a blight, the blight of a cheerless world at war.

You know how we're always complaining about the birds. We're referring to the heaving of refuse bits into the courts onto the cars therein. We may covet our neighbor's shiny vehicle and the thick tread of his tires. But let's not take a cue from the birdies.

Another complaint comes concerning the littered condition of the "pantry shelf." "It seems to me," writes our correspondent, "that all the hogs in the world are not back on the farm; neither do they have four legs."

JOE'S BACK AGAIN

The efficiency rating system applies to all employees in the Department of Agriculture under San José scales. The rating official shall be a person who daily oversees, reviews, checks, revises, misunderstands, and utterly mutilates the work of said employee who shall hereinafter be known as the Party of the Second Part, and referred to as Whodunit, or plain Bloomerbutton.

Employees shall be rated as super-drooper, adequate, fatuous, obsolete, punk and suffering from occupational disease. If the last two classes compose more than 95 percent of the personnel of any unit, then under the provisions of the Meat Inspection Act of 1890 the division shall be closed for fumigation and its supervisor taken out for complete rehabilitation and overhauling. This refers only to a long division; short division can take care of itself.

Curds and Culpability

A few of the circumstances which are important in rating a Whodunit are as follows:

1. Does employee leave coat behind when air warden blows his whistle and if so how much change was in the pocket? Where is my half?

2. Does employee wear raincoat in the office, saying that it's raining outside, and since her soul is in the rain it is necessary to wear raincoat to keep her soul dry?

3. Is employee effective in planning broad programs or does she eat too much and expand irresponsibly?

There are also other "special circumstances," but the less said about them the better.

Any employee considered "weak" should have his feet immersed in boiling smearcase and subcutaneous injections of hot barley water should be administered as long as the doctor holds out.

. . . you wouldn't believe it . .

In arranging the rating forms, Junior Stenographers in CAF - a must not be mingled with Junior Clerks Calf-2 for then the most preposterous things happen and

you wouldn't believe me so why should I dwell on it. But if the first rating proves insufficient, a second rating may be put on to parboil over a low flame.

After it is all over, check and see whether you have been influenced by purely personal considerations, such as a mutual passion for smoked pork sausage.

If you wish to appeal this rating, a soundproof howling chamber has been provided; if you will send in your request anonymously the location of this chamber will be revealed to you.

A five-letter word

We had a long talk with Joe on this matter of efficiency ratings. We asked him confidentially what he thought. What do you think he said?

WELFARE ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)

Treasury and the employees of the Department of Agriculture.

The employees' share of Welfare profits is used primarily to make emergency loans of the kind outlined above. The rest goes to financing activities conducted under the recreational program of the Department. It is the policy of the Association not to pile up heavy profit statements. This is accomplished by rendering all services at the lowest cost consistent with the Association's principle of adequate compensation for its own employees.

Management of the Welfare Association is a Department-wide responsibility. A Welfare Committee is appointed in each Bureau or Office and these Committees constitute the Administrative Council. This Council holds annual elections to choose the Association's director and officers. The Committee in any Bureau or Office is always available for receiving loan applications and suggestions on points which might enable the Welfare Association to be of service to the Department. J. L. S.

The Secretary Wickards are expecting again. It's an annual event, and the Secretary likes to go back to Indiana to see that the little pigs on his farms get a good start.

A REVIEW

Toward Farm Security, Joseph Gaer
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Here is a Handbook prepared for the new Farm Security employee, and more particularly the new Farm Security County Supervisor. But so deftly is it written, and with such skill and interest that you youldn't recognize it as a Manual.

To Begin With, writes Joseph Gaer, the reason for the Farm Security Administration and its 18,000 employees is rural poverty. "The blighting effect of rural poverty is the same as that of a highly contagious disease." The disease has caught firm hold and must be treated by a skilled physician who has the right set of instruments. Rural poverty is not a disease that can be quarantined and forgotten.

Too Many People on the Land

In 1790, seventy percent of the people were engaged in farming. Today less than twenty-five percent are on farms. Why? What has caused such critical rural poverty? What is the role of the Farm Security Administration?

It's not a new story. Old McDonald knew it when he raised Cain against one-crop farming and gullies. Steinbeck knew it when he described the Okies "tractored" off their land, rattling across the country in their jalopies. Poet MacLeish knew: "All we know for sure--the land's going out from us: All we know

for sure--we've got the roads to go by now the land's gone. We've got the roads to go by where it takes us. We can go there."

The Chosen People

No land, bad land. Cotton pickers and corn pickers and tractors. Tenants and sharecroppers. Malnutrition, despair and human erosion.

Our farmers have become migrants.

"Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever He had a chosen people, whose breasts He has made His peculiar deposit for substantial and genuine virtue.

The chosen people have become migrants.

"Like shoals of minnows they rush from crop to crop," writes Seth Gaer. "Not lazy people. Not mentally unfit people. Not wasteful people. But people in despair. People who no longer care what happens to them."

They live in tar-paper shacks, hovels of tin, canvas tents, without sanitary conveniences, without educational opportunities, and before they are settled they must pack and leave again in their rattling jalopies.

One half of the farmers -- and one third of these . . .

Nearly one half of the nation's farmers are in the tenant or sharecropper class, and over one third of all tenants and sharecroppers move each year.

One hundred million acres are

so seriously damaged that they must be retired from farming; another hundred million rapidly losing fertility -- nearly half of the nation's cropland which should have endured centuries to supply the farm needs of a population three times as large as we have now.

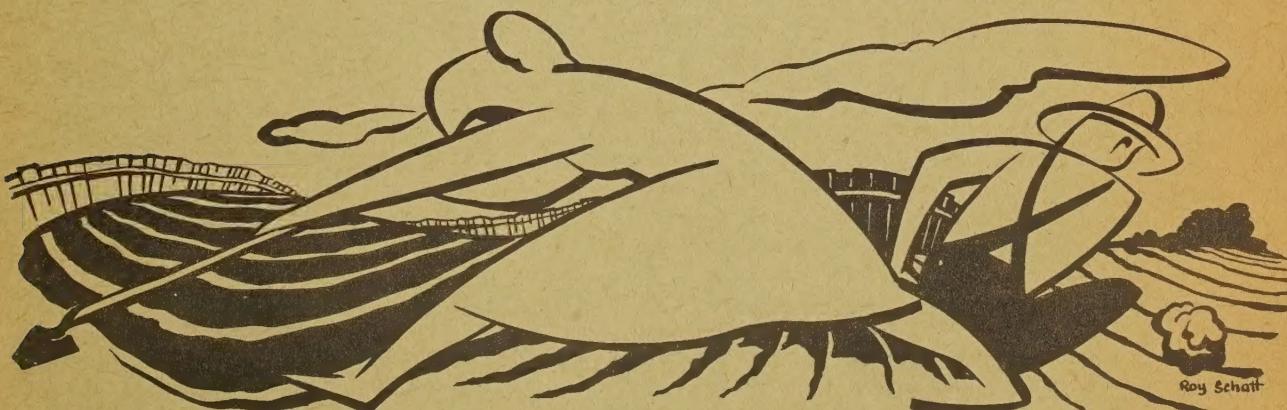
Objective of F. S. A.

The Nation has at last recognized that rural poverty is not a local concern, but a national problem. The Farm Security Administration has been entrusted with the duty of rehabilitation. The Farm Security Administration has been designated to "aid low income farm families to reestablish themselves on productive land and to become self-supporting, through a threefold program of rural rehabilitation, farm purchase by tenants and rural homestead."

Chapter 6 on . . .

So much for the background. From Chapter 6 on, the Manual is devoted to the practical aspects of the F.S.A. The County Office is exposed and there are a dozen notes for the County Supervisor's hatband. Don't skip the chapter that defines the advantages and privileges of being an F.S.A. employee. The glossary and bibliography are comprehensive and full of spirit.

We recommend Seth Gaer's Handbook -- we like its aliveness, and humanity, and its good writing. It should be a model for other Bureau publications of a similar nature.





MOTOR TRAVEL

TRANSPORTATION OFFERED:

Tenn. Nashville	May 8
Local: Ga. and N.H., N.W.	
Pa. and Minn., S.E.	
Arlington Village	
Berwyn, Md.	
Foxhall Village	

TRANSPORTATION WANTED

Pa. Reading	Weekends
Philadelphia	Weekends
Local: 13th and Van Buren	
Forestville, Md.	
Greenbelt	
Vienna, Va.	
Fla. and N. H.	
From Beltsville	
Lyon Village	
W. Cherrydale	
Westover	
E. Falls Church	
Falls Church	
Alexandria	
16th and Newton, N.W.	
Silver Spring	
Adams Mill Rd. - Lamont St., NW	
N. Ct. Hse. Rd., Arlington	
Clifton Park Village, Silver Sp	
Edmonston Rd. and Peyton St.	
Baltimore to Washington	
E. Falls Church to Beltsville	

EXCHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION

18th and Mass. SE to Beltsville

In submitting motor travel requests, please include the name of the Bureau in which you are located. It is impossible to direct mail correctly if the bureau name is not given, and because of official duties, the telephone cannot be used.

This column, long a feature of the EXCHANGE, can be of more service to the employees, if all will cooperate. We're glad to publish and handle the mail regarding transportation, but we can't manufacture rides for those desiring them or provide passengers out of thin air.

If you have transportation to offer, desire a ride, or want to ride part-time with someone else let us know and we'll make your desires known to other employees.

ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Unit #36 of the Department presented a bedside table to the Crippled Children's Clinic, Gallinger Hospital, as their contribution to the Legion Child Welfare Program. New members are needed to assist in the Legion's National War Program. Contact any Legionnaire or drop a note to the Exchange.

• **BLOOD DONORS.** "There isn't a more personal way in which we can do our part in the war effort," says Assistant Secretary Grover Hill, referring to the drive for blood donations to the National Emergency Volunteer Blood Donor Project, operated under the auspices of the Red Cross and the Army-Navy Blood Donor Center. The blood donated to this project is used to build up blood plasma for our fighting forces.

Only one-half to one pint of blood is collected from each donor. The fluid content is replaced within 24 hours. Qualified doctors and nurses are in attendance, so there is no danger to the donor. And a spot of tea and a crumpet after it's all over.

Interested in helping your country in a personal way? Call extension 3517 and an appointment will be arranged.

• **HIKING CLUB** calls for volunteer leaders. War or no war, the spring comes, and fills you with beauty and energy that's too full to keep indoors. Hiking is an activity that will bring zest to tomorrow's war tasks. If you're flower-minded you can sit on a bank of wild thyme and count pistils and stamens and ovules to your heart's full joy -- or root out pads of bloodroot and lichen clumps. If your whimsy turns to zoology, there must be a fire-bellied eft in a pond or murmuring stream. "Ever let the fancy roam, pleasure never is at home." Gather your friends and head for the woods. If you're bursting with fauna and flora lore and want to lead a hike, let us know about it. You don't have to be a John Kieren -- and we promise not to ask you intimate genus and specie names!

• **RED CROSS** summons forces for WAR on WASTE. Leaflets have been released dealing with conserva-

tion of paper, rubber and textiles. "Salvage for Victory" should be as vital a part of the United Nations' war effort as "Production Now." How much paper and rubber cement and time can you save in your office?

• **RIFLE TEAM** celebrated its last league match of the season by setting a new record, 1118 from 1200 (later raised by the Maritime Commission to 1119). However, the Aggies outrifled the National Capital Rifle Club by 20 points, finishing the season with 17 wins and only 1 loss, three matches ahead of the Maritime Commission.

Nick Kroese, now a private at Fort Belvoir, took all individual honors by having the highest score ever fired in competition on N. R. A. range, covering two leagues per year for three years. Will the Sergeant at Belvoir be surprised!

The ladies are in third place in the 8-team league, a fine showing for their first year of competition.

• **SOCIETY SPRING DANCE.** The Washington State and Alaska Society will hold their spring formal at the Wardman Park Hotel, April 11, at 9:30. Tickets at the door if you haven't made other contacts, Admission \$1.10 for one.

• **SPANISH LUNCHEON CLUB** is as bad as the boot black stand. No meeting place is the 5th Wing Cafeteria; new time is 12:45. Same day (Wednesday). Stand in hoi polloi line to get your food, then retire to private dining room that is izquierda as you enter. This week you'll hear about a trip to Havana if you come.

• **SHOE SHINE STAND** is now in front of the Welfare Store, Adm. basement. Time: anytime that Wilson is there, and you can skip away from the office. (Would you like to start a campaign for a barber shop?)

• **FIFTH WING CAFETERIA** now open for breakfast, 8 to 10. Lunchroom where you used to get your eggs and bacon does not open until 9 (and don't expect to find steaming breakfast delights, because there's only coffee and donuts for P.C(s.).)

A-81Ae

AGRICULTURE



Vol. XV, No. 3

May 1

CHANGES IN LEGAL STAFF

With the departure of Mastin G. White to the Office of the Judge-Advocate as a major, Robert H. Shields becomes the Department's Solicitor. Mr. Shields returns to an office that he knows well, having joined the Solicitor's staff in 1935 when all legal work of the Department was consolidated. In 1937 he was placed in charge of the Triple A Division of the Office of the Solicitor, and in June, 1941, became an Assistant to the Secretary and the Department's chief quasi-judicial officer under the so-called Schwellenbach Act. His duties in these offices have been assumed by Thomas J. Flavin, Principal Attorney in the Office of the Solicitor.

Mr. Shields, who is only 37 years old, received his law degree from the Harvard Law School in 1929.

Good luck to all three -- the new Solicitor, the new Assistant and the new Major.

WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING Keep 'em Flying Department

Wolves and sheep are going to help win the war -- and they're going to do it up where it's high and cold.

The Army has found sheepskin coats to be the warmest of a great variety of furs and other materials tested, and U.S.D.A. specialists are aiding flock owners in attaining large-scale production.

But wool is too good an insulator in one respect. Moisture from the breath accumulates as ice on the edges of parka hoods. Alaskan experience has shown that a strip of wolf fur on the edge of the hood corrects the trouble. So the pelts of sheep and wolves are being used to make a winning combination against cold, thereby aiding allied aviators to beat the Axis. D.S.B.



ROOM TROUBLE?

Do you need a room?
Or perhaps you have housing to offer.

A Bulletin Board has been placed in Room 100, Administration Building for posting notices by employees who are either seeking rooms, apartments or houses, or have such facilities to offer.

Notices must be typed on 3 by 5 white paper, and must cover the following points: price, location, transportation facilities, bathroom service, whether or not board is desired, name of person wishing room, phone number of person wishing to rent -- and anything else that might be of importance in expediting the have-nots into the haves.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Division of Personnel Relations and Safety, Branch 5748. Since the Department has no facilities for investigating accommodations offered or applicants desiring accommodations, no responsibility can be assumed for any arrangements made.

FEDERAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS OPEN 1942 SEASON

The Federal Horseshoe Pitchers opened the 1942 season Tuesday, April 28 on the courts just west of the Commerce Building. These courts will be open for league play from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday nights of each week. Play will continue for 12 weeks, and a final tournament will be held the last week of July.

Under the 1942 rules, players will be placed in groups according to their ability as ringer tossers. This will enable each player to pitch against other players of the same skill.

New members may enter at any time, but they must compete in at least 4 nights of play to be eligible for the final tournament. Competition is open to both men and women. The final tournament to determine the champion of each group will be run on the elimination basis. The team trophy, which was won by Agriculture in 1939 and which is now held by the Civil Service Commission, will be awarded to the team having the most points.

Points will be determined as follows:

- 1st place in each class - 5
- 2nd place in each class - 4
- 3rd place in each class - 3
- 4th place in each class - 2
- 5th place in each class - 1

Under this system a person does not have to be a top-notch player to win points for his team. It is hoped that Agriculture will have a number of players in each class. Those desiring further information may communicate with Prentis R. Mabry, A.A.A., Room 5709, South Building, Ext. 6210.

Five million copies of the First Aid Text are just off the press. Looks like "The Moon Is Down" doesn't have a chance with the Red Cross operating on an all-out production basis.

THE AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE
4403 SOUTH BUILDING
PUBLISHED BY THE ATHLETIC AND
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Sophia Podolsky.....Editor
SIGNED CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY - SUBJECT TO REVISION

Following instructions in the Exchange of a fortnight ago, we went to the 5th Wing Cafeteria, collected a tray of baked onions, fudge cake and poached peach nestling a poached prune, and (still following Exchange directions) retired to the small dining room which had been reserved for the Spanish Luncheon Club. As is the custom at these luncheons, we engaged in the liveliest Spanish we know -- in the present tense, and not too glib, but satisfying none-the-less and the only way to put a language on the tongue.

When suddenly a voice shattered the room: "This room is reserved for officials," it said; then pounced on our table and continued: "You're ladies, and there are no lady officials in the Department of Agriculture." Then came the order to pick ourselves up and our plates and go into the wide expanse that was for such as we, and *nunca, nunca* to burden tables reserved for officials.

Fortunately, our Latin American friends who work in the State Department and the Pan American Union and in the Coordinator's Office, and who usually attend these luncheons to goad us into Spanish, -- fortunately, these friends were not present.

What would you have done? We remained. But the spirit of the good neighbor, of hands across the Rio Grande and down the spine of the Andes was bruised. There was no light heart left for the program that had been planned. So we left immediately after lunch.

We don't question the propriety of rooms reserved for officials, nor a blanket cleavage of Department employees into sheep and goats, officials and non-officials, ladies and officials, gentlemen and officials.

We do question the lack of courtesy, the lack of dignity, of understanding and judgment.

We realize that space is at a premium, that there are many important luncheon conferences that must be held, and hardly enough dining rooms for such purposes. But to be tossed out simply because a room is reserved for officials and because there are no lady officials in the Department of Agriculture is something that belongs in the *que barbaridad* department.

HOW TO USE THE DIAL PHONE

Dialing is by no means a complicated process but it is wrong to think that just any old directions will do. If the following instructions are read carefully, satisfactory results will be obtained.

Please do not rely on your memory for telephone numbers. Numbers will be found listed in the telephone directory which is a large book back of the radiator full of names arranged alphabetically.

The Dial Tone is Important

Upon removing the receiver from the instrument you will hear the dial tone, if you listen, and if you don't intend to listen, why take the receiver off in the first place and these instructions will not do you a bit of good anyway. This is a steady humming sound. If you do not hear the dial tone within a reasonable time do not be disappointed. Hang up the receiver. Wait a few seconds. Throw together a batter cake. Defrost the refrigerator and listen again. If after the tenth or twelfth attempt you do not hear the dial tone your phone is out of order, angel pie, so call Repair Service, dialing 611, using the spare telephone. Tomorrow the telephone company will send a man around to clean your ears.

But let us assume that you have heard the dial tone.

An Outside Connection Is Important Too

Assume now that you are going to call District 6713. Are you ready? Remove the receiver. Place your finger in the hole over the red letter 9 (you do have an outside connection, don't you?) and pull clockwise until you strike the finger stop, the business that's shaped like a harvest moon holding water. Get a screwdriver and begin to work on that. Listen for the dial tone. Darnit, we already said that. Now dial the black letters "D" and "I" exactly the same way, remembering to release when you reach the finger stop. Then dial the red letters 6, 7, 1, 5, in order. If you do not dial them in order it is im-

possible to hit the jackpot. If the number has a party letter, try to get hold of it and read it (steam is the best way), then dial that immediately after the last figure, rinse well in blue water and hang over the radiator. Listen again. Ten times out of ten you hear a voice you never heard before. How did you expect to get the party you wanted by dialing District 6715 anyway? Didn't you hear we said District 6713 in the first place? Why don't you pay attention? What do you think this is going to do to your efficiency rating? This sort of thing can't go on. It's not getting us anywhere.

Information

Now that you've mastered the fundamentals, the rest is easy. You want to call Miss Zvrssht? and she's not in the directory? Dial 3131 and you'll hear an *allegro con anima*, an *allegro vivace*, an *allegro musicale* that will make you forget Miss Z. and spend the rest of your days dialing 3131.

Victory Yields to Preparedness

Do you want to call your pal who works on the Mall, the one who has squirrels in his drawer? Dial 80 and ask for National War Agency. No, not National Defense, but National War. If you can't remember, dial 88, and someone will tell you that now we're working for Victory.

The only way to become really proficient at dialing is to practice. There are endless combinations that you can dial. We recommend as much practice as possible: call your friends, call your foes, call the Mall, the Madhouse, the Zoo -- but don't call the Editor.

SIR WILLMOTT LEWIS ADDRESSES TRIANGLE CLUB. Sir Willmott, noted journalist and Washington correspondent of THE LONDON TIMES and generally recognized as one of the leading and best-informed minds of the English-speaking world, was guest of honor and speaker at the dinner meeting of The Triangle Club held Friday, April 24, at the Masonic Temple. There was a large attendance of members and guests.

WHAT CAME OUT OF BLODGETT'S HOTEL

The Department of Agriculture originated in the Patent Office. The Patent Office originally occupied rooms on the top floor of Blodgett's Hotel, a three-story building that once stood at 8th and E Streets, N.W., the present site of the United States Tariff Commission Building. And so begins the saga of what came out of Blodgett's.

Father Sponsors a Lottery

The corner stone of Blodgett's Hotel was laid in 1795 shortly after George Washington selected the site of Washington as the future location of the Capital of the United States. Both the site and the architectural plans of the hotel formed prizes in a lottery held to promote the sale of lots in the struggling Federal City. The Father of his Country was not exactly disinterested in all this as he owned some land out around Georgetown and was holding it, hoping for a rise in prices.

Files in the Breakfast Room

In 1810 Blodgett's Hotel was taken over by the Government. This was done to relieve congestion in a 25-room building which then housed the entire Federal Government. Strange times those when the Government had to take over private living quarters like hotels because it was expanding! We can hardly believe it now.

Amnesia Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

In any case the Post Office Department, the City Post Office and the Patent Office (carrying the seed of Agriculture) were moved into Blodgett's Hotel. In 1814 when Washington was invaded by the troops of a now friendly power whose name escapes the writer, Blodgett's Hotel was the only Government Building not destroyed by fire. This fire was of mysterious origin, the nature of which appears to have been deleted from current history books.

Blodgett's Hotel was saved only on the personal appeal of Dr. William Thornton who was then Commissioner of Patents at a salary of \$1,500. During the winter following the burning of the Capitol, Blodgett's Hotel became the meeting place of the Congress. Anyway the building did burn in 1836. All of the old records and models, including Robert Fulton's model of the Clermont, were destroyed.

Already on Four Legs

Let us diverge for a moment and insert a human interest item so that you will have a notion of Washington in 1836. An April 21st paper carried this item: "The ill-fated man who was thrown down by a hog opposite the general post-office on Thursday as mentioned in our last, died on Saturday from the severe injury he sustained, his skull being fractured by that infamous accident." The Department of Agriculture was trying to get into the Government service on four legs as early as 1836.

\$1,000 for Agricultural Purposes

The Congress had already authorized a new Patent Office building before Blodgett's Hotel burned. Construction began about 1837 and the building, now occupied by the Civil Service Commission, was complete in 1867.

About 1839 work also began on the building long called the Post Office Building or the Old Land Office Building, but now in the main occupied by the United States Tariff Commission. The south wing of this building occupies the original site of Blodgett's Hotel on E Street between 7th and 8th. It was completed about 1866.

Both buildings were in Roman-Corinthian architecture and have not been modified greatly externally since they were completed. In the *Education of Henry Adams* we are told that "the white marble columns and fronts of the Post Office and Patent Office faced each other, like white Greek Temples in the abandoned gravel pits of a deserted Syrian city." They are still there, but the city is far from deserted, and the gravel pits are gone.

In 1839 Henry L. Ellsworth was Commissioner of Patents. In that year he prevailed upon the Congress to grant him permission to expend \$1,000 of incoming patent funds for agricultural purposes. As a result of this grant an Agricultural Section had later to be set up in the Patent Office which for many years occupied space in both the buildings mentioned above, though its headquarters were in the north or Civil Service Building.

(cont'd on page 4, col. 3)





MOTOR TRAVEL

OFFERED:

Mich., Kalamazoo
 Tenn., Nashville May 8
 Local: Pa. & Minn. Aves., SE
 Foxhall Village
 Arlington Village
 Ga. & NH. Ave., NW
 Annandale
 Kaywood Gardens, Mt. Rainier, Md.
 to Standard Oil Building

WANTED:

Pa., Reading Weekends
 Pa., Philadelphia Weekends
 Local: Forestville, Md.
 Greenbelt
 Vienna, Va.
 Fla. & N.H. Aves., NW
 16th & Newton, NW
 Glencarlyn
 N. H. Ave. Extended
 Riverdale
 University Park, Md.
 from Beltsville
 Lyon Village
 Westover
 E. Falls Church
 Falls Church
 Alexandria
 Silver Spring

Adams Mill Rd. & Lamont St., NW
 N. Ct. Hse. Rd., Arlington
 Clifton Park Village, Silver Sp.
 Edmonston Rd. & Peyton St.
 Baltimore to Washington
 E. Falls Church to Beltsville
 14th & R to Horticulture Field
 Station, Beltsville
 W. Cherrydale (Stafford St. &
 Lee Hwy.)

EXCHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION
 18th & Mass, SE, to Beltsville
 Glencarlyn
 5600 Block of Wilson Blvd.

WANTED OR EXCHANGE from Tyson's Cross Roads, McLean, Langley or on Nebraska Avenue, NW, between American University and Military Road, to Beltsville.

WANTED - Responsible man to drive Ford coupe to Tyler, Texas.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE NAME OF BUREAU
IN SUBMITTING REQUESTS FOR TRANS-
PORTATION TO THE EXCHANGE.

The WANDERBIRDS' HIKING CLUB invites the Agriculture Hiking Club to join them May 3 on a hike up Old Rag Mountain, considered the most spectacular peak in the northern Virginia Blue Ridge.

Trilliums, wild orchids and violets should be in bloom by then for the botanists; nests of ravens in the jagged cliffs for the ornithologists; panoramas for our camera fiends --- and seven strenuous miles for ALL. Wear thick hiking togs and bring a few sandwiches for the middle of the day. Dinner will be more elegant. Bus fare is \$2.35; dinner, 75 cents. Chartered buses will leave the National Theatre at 7:30 in the morning *en punto*, and it is necessary to make reservations in advance. Call Chestnut 1960 up to 6:30 p.m. the day preceding the hike, and from 6 a.m. until an hour before the hike. From 6:30 p.m. to 6 a.m., call Oxford 0635. (Are you confused? It's simply that the night inquiry gets the Oxford exchange, that is, if you wake up in the middle of the night and experience a violent urge to hike up old Mount Rag.)

The WAR MEMORIAL Committee, responsible for the expenditure of funds raised in the Department for the Memorial Plaque in the Patio, has been dissolved. Remaining funds, amounting to \$118.29 have been donated to #36 of the American Legion to form a relief fund for veterans and their dependents.

The RED CROSS UNIT of the Department turned in 1030 garments during the month of March. They represent a total of nearly sixteen thousand hours contributed by members of the Production Service Group, which now numbers over two thousand women. Material for sewing is available in the Patio.

An arrangement has been made with a wholesale ladies ready-to-wear company in Baltimore by which ARA members can purchase dresses, coats, slacks, and sports wear.

Service at store involves intelligent aid in selecting garments off the racks -- no salesmen. ARA members will receive a special communication giving details and name and address of the company.

BLODGETT'S (cont'd)

Out of that section came the Department of Agriculture in 1862, hence its history runs back through that of both Greek temples to Blodgett's Hotel and thence to John Orr's farm which once extended from E Street out as far as the Public Library.

Small Potatoes

On May 15, 1862, President Lincoln signed the bill establishing what is now the United States Department of Agriculture as a separate agency with bureau status, and Isaac Newton who had been in charge of the Agricultural Division became the first Commissioner of Agriculture. The new agency began working in two basement rooms of the building then occupied by the agricultural section of the Patent Office, the present Civil Service Commission Building. No one was too excited about the Farm Department. Casual notice was made in the farm journals, and the press in general ignored it. The New York Herald's editorial piece on the 37th Congress placed the birth of the Department last in the list of its accomplishments, and didn't even mention the Land-Grant College Act.

"What Hath God Wrought"

Forgive us, we didn't mean to mention all of these gems until next time. Our present concern is to trace Blodgett's to the hilt. Last mentioned, it had metamorphosed into a classical edifice housing the Post Office. Between 1897 and 1917 the General Land Office of the Interior Department literally did a land-office business therein. General Enoch Crowder directed the draft from this building, and General Pershing wrote his final reports as Commander-in-Chief of the A.E.F. there. It now shelters the United States Tariff Commission, part of the United States Employees' Compensation Commission and a city post office branch. A small telegraph office, the oldest in the city, is on the F Street side, commemorative of the fact that Samuel F. B. Morse sent his "What Hath God Wrought" message from a small structure that stood on the 7th St. side April 1, 1845.

T. S. H.

19
As Stake
Cop. 2

AGRICULTURE

United States Department of Agriculture Employees' Association

EXCHANGE

Vol. XV, No. 4

May 16, 1942

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

What with the general stress of the war effort, longer hours of work, higher taxes, and increased living costs, the twin problems of keeping healthy and of getting adequate medical care are bothering many a Government worker.

Group Health Association, Inc.

Five years ago a group of Government workers decided to do something about these problems, which were less intense then but are always faced by people of moderate means. They organized Group Health Association, Inc., a non-profit medical cooperative designed to give its members and their families the full benefit of modern preventive and curative medicine, including hospital care, operations, and maternity service.

The Struggle to Pool Good Health

Starting with less than 900 members and a staff of four doctors, they had a hard fight on their hands for a while, as every pioneering effort does. But they knew what they wanted and they went ahead. With the good will of many forward-looking individuals in the medical profession, the ultimate cooperation of hospitals, and the help of courage and brains in their own membership, they overcame one difficulty after another and built up a strong organization.

Today Group Health has 3300 members and provides medical services for 7800 individuals. It runs two clinics and a pharmacy and has on its staff 13 full-time doctors, an optometrist, 8 registered nurses, 2 laboratory technicians, an X-ray technician, and 2 graduate pharmacists. The staff includes both general practitioners (Cont'd on page 2, col. 3)



A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE

Three hundred and sixty-five thousand pints of blood - this is the goal of the Red Cross. This is what your contribution to the war effort can be.

In World War #1, blood was restored to wounded men by direct arm-to-arm transfusion from another of the same blood type. But emergencies cannot wait for matched blood.

Such direct transfusions are almost obsolete. Now, when blood is needed, it is obtained from a blood bank. The blood which you give is made into a powder. When needed, this powder is mixed with warm liquids and injected.

What is Plasma?

Plasma is the fluid portion of blood remaining after removal of the red and white corpuscles.

Plasma, like whole blood, increases blood volume, raises blood pressure, supplies essential blood proteins and heightens resistance to infection.

Plasma, unlike whole blood, may be preserved for an indefinite time, it need not be typed prior to administration, and is easily transported under unfavorable circumstances.

Not only is plasma the ideal food for cellular protein requirements, but it is a requisite for the production of antibodies, so essential in building up resistance against infection.

Straight from the heart

It's easy to give this "heart" gift; it's as easy as buying a baby bond - only it's more satisfying because it's more personal.

Help save a life with your blood. Help the Red Cross collect 365,000 pints of plasma by July.

THE AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE
ROOM 4403 SOUTH BUILDING
PUBLISHED BY THE ATHLETIC AND
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Sophia Podolsky Editor
Signed contributions only - Subject to Revision

SHARE-YOUR-CAR

The time has come for action: As each day rolls into the next, the Nation's supplies of rubber and gasoline become more critical. Barring unforeseen developments, civilians must forego normal demands for these materials during 1942 and 1943. Auto drivers must face reality and tighten their belts to conservation - and more conservation - of available supplies of rubber and gasoline.

The President has spoken! His letter to Secretary Wickard urges that a program be set up in the Department "which will substantially reduce the number of automobiles which are necessary to take men and women to and from their places of work."

The Office of Personnel has acted: Two months ago, a program was launched to help employees conserve tires and gasoline by rotating the driving of their vehicles. Questionnaires were sent to all employees who indicated in an earlier poll that they drove to work, and they were asked if they would enter a "Share-Your-Car" program. Car drivers who agreed to cooperate were grouped into neighborhood "car clubs." A neighborhood chairman appointed by the Office of Personnel was asked to call each group together so that arrangements could be made for car-pooling.

But we need cooperation! Of approximately 1,800 car owners in the Department, only about 250 have enlisted in the car-pooling program. About 500 others are carrying non-driving passengers to and from work everyday. These figures are dolefully unimpressive. Department employees are still complacent about the seriousness of the situation.

Agriculture's "car-club" system has been adopted by nearly every other agency and department of the Federal Government. We have

been called upon again and again to help these other agencies establish car-rotation programs and in every case the "Agriculture Plan" has been adopted.

Why can't it work at home?

The lack of enlistment springs from several sources. It is more than possible that many employees have not been contacted. If they will secure the questionnaire from their personnel offices, fill them out, and send the information to Ira Price, Room 433 A., Ext. 5626, they will be supplied with the names of "rotators" in their neighborhoods.

Others may be reluctant to rotate their driving because they do not have official parking spaces. An effort will be made to place these individuals in a group which contains at least one employee who is willing to let his neighbors use it on the days they drive the group members to work.

Then, of course, there's apathy.

Car owners of the Department! Fill your questionnaire now, or contact Ira Price who is in charge of the car-pooling program.

The Department has been in correspondence with the District of Columbia, Division of Vehicles and Traffic, with a view to reducing the traffic hazards that have developed on Independence Ave. between 12th and 14th Sts.

In this connection, it has been suggested that the crosswalks on Independence Ave. be eliminated and that our employees use the bridges or tunnel. While the soundness of this suggestion is recognized, we realize that the feasibility is tenuous, and that it will be difficult to persuade our employees to comply with it. Nevertheless, it is felt that the Department would be derelict in its duty if it did not at least warn our people of the danger and urge the use of the safe crossings which are available.

Welcome to the 96 F.C.A. employees who have moved into the South Building. A liaison group consisting of Governor Black and his staff will also join the Mall Group soon.

SURVIVAL . . . (cont'd)
ers and specialists in surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics, internal medicine, urology, and eye, ear, nose, and throat. Other outside specialists are available as consultants.

The organization has kept three objectives in mind: to pool medical knowledge and skill, together with up-to-date equipment for diagnosis and treatment, so that they are all available in one place for every patient; to emphasize prevention of disease fully as much as treatment after disease occurs; to enable members to budget their medical care by paying monthly dues, as low as is consistent with high standards of professional service.

Because it is carrying out these objectives, GHA believes its usefulness in the present emergency is enhanced a hundred fold.

Any employee of the Federal Government in Washington is eligible to join. The monthly dues are \$2 for a member; \$2 for wife, husband, or other adult dependent, \$1 for each of the first three child dependents under 21 years of age, with no charge for additional child dependents. When a new member joins, he pays a \$10 membership fee, which covers his entire family and can be budgeted at \$1 a month.

Further details and an application for membership can be obtained by writing or phoning Group Health Association, Inc., 1328 Eye Street, N.W.-Re. 1575.GH

Charles W. Boyle Dies

Charles W. Boyle, Assistant Solicitor had served the Department for 35 years, first as a law clerk in 1907, and Assistant Solicitor since 1920. Born in Prince Georges County, Md.; Judge Boyle moved to Washington while a child. He was admitted to the District Bar after attending St. Johns College and receiving bachelor and master of law degrees from National University.

Both the clerical and legal staff of the Solicitor's office, and all of those who have known him throughout the many years he served Agriculture, will miss this veteran whom they affectionately called "Judge."

DO YOU HAVE BAD DREAMS, TOO?

(Notes on Architecture, Fontation, Tourism, Organization and Insomnia)

The Department is housed in a gigantic building of late Swiss or early Cheddar architecture, with touches of Roquefort, containing 900,000 windows, 90 miles of paved corridors, and covering sufficient pasture land to graze all the yodlers in the State of Texas.

Droves of visitors may often be seen in the building tied together with ropes. Some of them are looking for the 40-foot "mule" they've heard about which hovers over the stairway leading to the Secretary's office. Some of them shoot antelopes in the Patio. Others sit idly munching fistfuls of alfalfa hay and send up occasional skyrockets to summon aid. Very often it clouds up and rains in the building like all get out. Many chiefs roam the corridors snapping their fangs. They intimidate some of the employees so badly that they rush back to their offices and go to work.

Some workmen strayed into the building before the department moved in and have never been seen since. Late at night their ghosts can be heard howling for paychecks. But persons who take reasonable precautions, a compass, a puptent, some dog biscuits, a flask of brandy, an alpinstock, some more brandy, a thresher and binder, more brandy still, and a copy of the Congressional Record need never get lost in the building.

And now a wee bit about the organization. This includes 23 bureaus, some swell dressers, droves of stenographers, a flock of clerks, and 6 million filing cases. The general idea is to get the filing cases full, promotions being given to employees who fill the most cases in the least time. Employees are forbidden to file their fingernails, lunches, stale newspapers, or overshoes in the cabinets. When a cabinet gets full it is carted to some remote corner and quietly forgotten. Anyone mentioning it thereafter is penalized 5 yards, gets marked suffering from occupational disease on her efficiency rating and has to kiss the personnel officer. This is where Joe wakes up.

THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND PLAY-GROUNDS DEPARTMENT announces*Eight Nights of Fun*

Mondays at 8-Roosevelt High School
SQUARE DANCING

"swing your partner" while Herbert Wilson calls the figures.

PICNIC GAMES

Camp fire stuff & air raid games.

SOCIAL RECREATION

Mixers; Quiet games, Memory, Singing and Mental Stunts.

INFORMAL COTILLION

Grand Marches - Figures - Favors.

PICNIC

June 20-Palisades Rec. Center.

Correction & Amplification Dept.

Memo to the Editor of the *Exchange*: "Your article on "How to Use the Dial Phone" states that in order to report or to call repair service, the person making such a report should dial 611. If your article is to apply to the practice of reporting trouble in the Department of Agriculture, the phone to be dialed as listed on the cover page of the Department's directory requires that the trouble be reported to Branch 3388. It will be appreciated if you will make a correction in the next issue of the *Exchange*."

Temporarily insane cow allowed one pound of brown sugar per day under "Illness of Consumers" clause. (*N.Y. Times*)

INFORMATION PLEASE

(1) In what year did they run a street car track in the Department side yard? (1942)

(2) What woman in U.S.D.A. has roasted more than 8,999 cuts of beef, pork, and lamb for experimental purposes? (Lucy Alexander, B.H.E.)

(3) In which volume of the "Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture" is found this solemn thought: "Unless made otherwise by a vicious training a woman is as naturally tasteful, tidy, and neat in herself, and as to all her surroundings, as the beautiful canary, which bathes itself every morning, and will not be satisfied until each rebellious feather is compelled to take the shape and place which nature designed." (1863)

(4) What early Secretary of Agriculture accepted money the Congress appropriated for a new Agriculture Building -- built an east wing and a west wing and left a hole in the middle -- which he filled with flowers, and then requested funds for an Administration Building to fill the hole, which he didn't get? (Tama Jim Wilson)

(5) What famous trio is quoted in the Georgian marble above the Corinthian columns of the Administration Building? (St. Paul, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln)

(6) How many centuries has the Department been collecting crop information?

(one)

(7) What scientist still with the U.S.D.A. revolutionized the butter-making practice throughout the world? (L.A. Rogers, B.D.I.)

(8) What famous raconteur got lost in the South Building while he was looking for an entomologist who could tell him whether there were termites at Mt. Vernon or no. (Alexander Wollcott)

(9) What happened to the first batch of cherry trees that the Mayor of Tokyo sent to Washington in 1910? (Entire shipment was burned) What happened to the second batch the forgiving Mayor sent in 1912? (They were planted on Speedway) How did our Government reciprocate the courtesy? (The Department of Agriculture sent dogwood trees, dogwood seed and mountain laurel to the city of Tokyo in 1915 and 1917.)



DEFENSE BOND AND STAMP COUNTER
IN THE PATIO OF THE ADM. BLDG.

Miss Gertrude Rest, in charge.

• WAR BONDS AND STAMPS are on sale daily from 9 to 5:30. Volume of sales continues to increase.

• RED CROSS WAR FUND \$10,705.99
(Contributions still being received)

DECORATION DAY (May 30) will be observed with memorial services at Arlington and other local and national cemetaries. Contributions for flags and flowers will be welcomed.

• BUDDY POPPIES will be on sale during last half of May. Money derived from sale is used for support of the Orphans Home in Michigan which is maintained by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

• Golf enthusiasts are requested to get in touch with Lydia Bernhardt, Ext. 5489.

• HIKING, too, will be affected by the gas rationing and tire shortage. Scarcity of transportation by private car to a starting point will limit hiking trips to trails accessible by trolley, bus, or train. However, there are many interesting paths not too far away. Isabel Dolmage of the Hiking Club calls for volunteers to probe the possibilities of moonlight hikes, campfire picnics, and bike jaunts.

It's not difficult to plan such outings. Prerequisite, are *hike leaders*, and hikes that have been carefully planned. If you have an inspiration, contact Miss Dolmage, Rm. 2816 (AMA).

• RED CROSS WAR RELIEF unit of the Department completes 829 garments during April. The wives are making the sewing machines hum, and the employees are polishing off the knitting. Sewing materials, a limited amount of wool and twine for crocheting gloves for air wardens are still available.

• SPANISH LUNCHEON CLUB will hear Mr. Harry Stark, Chief, Caribbean Region, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, on Wednesday, May 20, Room 6962 at 12 o'clock. Reservations must be made in advance; call Mrs. Meda Rosado, Ext. 4123.



MOTOR TRAVEL

OFFERED:

Mo. Kansas City June 10

Mo. St. Louis June 10

Local: Pa. & Minn. Aves., SE

Silver Spring

Clarendon (vicinity)

Annandale

Mt. Ranier, Md. to Std. Oil Bldg.

WANTED:

Local: Forestville, Md.

Greenbelt

16th & Newton, NW

Glencarlyn

Riverdale

Falls Church

Alexandria

Silver Spring

Adams Mill Rd. & Lamont St., NW

13th & Harvard, NW to Beltsville

N. Irving and Pershing Drive

E. Falls Church to Beltsville

14th & R to Beltsville

W Cherrydale (Stafford St.)

EXCHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION

18th & Mass, SE, to Beltsville

Glencarlyn

5600 Block of Wilson Blvd.

Oakcrest

WANTED OR EXCHANGE from Tyson's Cross Roads via Nebraska Avenue, N.W., to Beltsville.

The Editor wishes to thank Clarence Salisbury for maintaining the Motor Travel Column. It's one of those thankless jobs with lots of repercussions. Also, to Dorothy O'Melveny goes credit for lifting the face of this green sheet with her varityping.

Come to work with the river breezes in your hair, and sail home peacefully down the Potomac. No gas worries, no rubber worries. If you commute between Alexandria and the Department, this sailing service will be available for a fee of 15 cents each way. The boat is the ELDorado 11, a 42 foot cabin deck bayer which will seat about 55. Running time is estimated at 35 minutes. The Washington landing is Engineers Wharf (at the bicycle concession). The Alexandria landing is at Aitcheson's pier, south of the foot of Prince St.

A tentative schedule provides for leaving Alexandria at 8:15 and arriving in Washington at 8:50; leaving Washington at 5:40 and arriving in Alexandria at 6:15.

The operator of this service is Loyd L. Parker, Lincoln 3182.

• GRADUATE SCHOOL offers 8 courses for the summer session which starts in the first week of June and progresses into the fall. Four of the War Training courses are being repeated to accommodate those turned away in the first registration, which accounted for 900 students. These include: Government War Contracts; Clerical Statistics; Position Classification; and Beginning Gregg Shorthand. At least 400 candidates are on the waiting list for these subjects.

The rest of the curriculum includes Review of College Algebra, (preparatory for statistics which is in terrific demand); Beginning Spanish (one of the most popular of the Graduate School's offerings); Fundamentals of Speech, rostrummed by Mrs. H.B. Provenses, Assistant Professor of Speech at the University of Maryland; and Intermediate Gregg Shorthand. Circulars announcing these summer studies will be available shortly.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN SHOPPERS which devotes its waking and sleeping moments perpetuating consumer protection is planning a fiesta on Saturday, May 23 from 5 to 8 on the lawn of Mrs. Michael Straus who lives in Rock Creek Park at Linnean Hill, Kingle Road and Porter. Tickets are \$1.10 -- and this includes refreshments and entertainment in the Latin American mold -- meaning rum and rhumbas. Come and see for yourselves.

Included among the sponsors are Mrs. Mordecai Ezekiel, Mary Taylor, Dr. Louise Stanley, Mrs. Milo Perkins and Mrs. James LeCron.

BOWLING

The ladies in Agriculture are on the verge of reserving bowling alleys for next season. It's not priorities or hoarding that's precipitating this unseasonal gesture -- it's just that bowling has become more popular than murder mysteries in relaxing the tired Government mind and stimulating the sluggish Government body. So if you're interested, ladies, send vital statistics to E.R. Warfield (AAA) 5720 S. or G. Robinson (AMA) 408 Agri. Annex.

• What U.S.D.A. scientist discovered the cause of cattle tick fever? (Theobald Smith)

AGRICULTURE

United States Department of Agriculture Employees Activities

EXCHANGE

Vol. XV, No. 5

June 5, 1942

EDITORIAL

To the nation and to our allies, we in Agriculture have said food will win the war and write the peace. To keep our promise of being the pantry for the democracies, the whole motif of agricultural activities must be devoted to the one theme of PRODUCTION NOW -- so that normal domestic consumption can continue; so that food can move to our allies through lend-lease channels; so that the Red Cross can distribute our food on the battlefield and in the prison camps; so that the orange and blue stamps can still be exchanged for foodstuffs; and that the program of free school lunches will be kept alive. To do these things it is not only necessary to conserve the soil of our nation, but also the bodies of our workers who are devoting long hours to Agriculture's war tasks.

Bodies need relaxation, and relaxation is difficult when the heart of each day is sealed in offices and laboratories and elevators, when there is the constant traffic struggle of coming to work in the morning and going to the rooms we call "home" after the long day.

Yes, it is true that war tasks and war living produce war nerves, and that we must maintain healthy bodies to follow through on PRODUCTION NOW.

The ARA that publishes the *Exchange* is an excellent medium to achieve relaxation. The machinery is set for hiking, riding, swimming, music, acting, photography. What is lacking is response. Department employees should partake of these recreational facilities so that we can take war hours in our stride, so that we can produce the best blueprint for our field workers, so that we can sooner than we hope begin to write the peace.



STREAMLINING PRODUCTION

(Fred Wallace, Nebraska farmer, Chief of Triple-A and Special War Board Assistant to the Secretary, went to New York recently, and in addition to being interviewed by the *New Yorker's Talk of the Town*, he was also interviewed over station WGY, Schenectady, by G. Emerson Markham on the subject of "The Farmer and his War Board." The following are excerpts from Mr. Wallace's radio script - presented in the *Exchange* so that Department employees will know the job our farmers and War Boards are doing. The trouble with most of us is that we do our isolated, assigned duties without tying them into the whole structure of Agriculture's part in the war web. We forget for a moment that the tractor is as mighty as the tank.)

WALLACE: The Defense Boards, now called War Boards, were set up last July by Secretary Wickard to promote the Food for Freedom campaign and to streamline production. It's their job to see that farmers get the food raised. And it's my job to act as the connecting link between the Secretary and the state and county War Boards. There's a War Board in every county and every state: 48 state War Boards and 3,022 county War Boards. Both county and state Boards are made up of representatives from the various Department agencies in the county and state, and the Triple-A Chairman is Chairman of the War Board.

Production goals have been used by Triple-A on some basic crops for years. Along about last July the Department went to work on a plan to get war production goals for all farm products. The result was the announcement of the original FFF goals in September, (Cont'd page 2, column 3)

THE AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE
ROOM 4403 SOUTH BUILDING
PUBLISHED BY THE ATHLETIC AND
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Sophia Podolsky Editor
Contributions subject to editing
DO NOT PHONE WRITE

JOE JIVES THE STYLE MANUAL

The other day Joe got him an egg beater and a book on efficiency and started to whip himself up a revised style manual. Here's a blue-plate portion of what he served ten minutes later:

1. Block paragraphing is preferred to the indented and demented forms. This reduces the time lag. It eliminates all mental and physical nods, a nod being the new science of bio-dynamic human engineering, or how to get from here to there fast on an L.C. Smith. We used to waste 7 nods each woman-minute selecting the proper marginal paragraph spacing. Block paragraphing, however, not only reduces the time lag -- it also obliterates fatigue, and this gives us strength to wait in line in the 4th and 6th wing cafeterias.

U.S.D.A.'ers! Bring out your nods! Block your paragraphs with them! March them, two by two, up to your chief and demand a double raise -- no soda, please. Everybody in Tempo R on the Mall is getting them. Let's not be gypped just because we don't have squirrels in our desks.

"A new dynamic takes hold of America." We give you NOD! You may think that's nodding to get documentary about, but you're wrong! (Oh dear, even Joe's ashamed of that one).

2. The salutation should begin at the left margin. Doff your hat. This should be followed by a colon, accompanied by 2 military police, a drum major wearing a shako, the County War Board in full dress, presenting hoes, and the Chief of Chronic Obfuscation.

3. We now come to punctuation. The best semi-colons are grown on a sandy loam soil with nitrate fertilizer, a dash of bitters, and a mere spot of vermouth. Only thus can real Triple-A results be achieved. Vernalization (treating punctuation with melted snow for a period of 2 to 3 days - pull the covers up over their beds at night - and then planting around the hill instead of up and down)

yields a sense of rotation highly prized in farm department correspondence.

4. Avoid commas! Nothing in the USDA can be stopped with a mere comma anyway. Use a brick wall and dig a moat.

5. The letter should not be dated at the time of preparation because 18 division chiefs must read it, make suggestions and amplifications, abuse the original writer, change the sense, approve it, initial it, and retire on pension before it receives final clearance. However, the preparation date may be typed for historical perspective on the salmon, thistle beige, mauve, wheat, chartreuse and amber carbons, while the white, vanilla, kelly green, shocking pink, crabapple jelly, and shrimp-salad carbons are filed separately to confuse the front office.

6. The address is placed approximately one-third the length of the envelope from the left goal-post near the alfalfa field and approximately one-half as deep as it is long. Do this personally. If window envelopes are used, be sure to hang lace curtains and to reglaze after each time-bomb set off by the Chief.

7. The complimentary close varies with the mood. "Very truly yours" is customary but not very exciting. As a variant we suggest - "Your doodle bug" or "Your own sweetie pie." We might as well try to get taxpayers to love the Government. "Cordially yours" is office slang for extreme intimacy. In any case, the close must be hung securely, slightly on the left of center, and change cars at F Street.

8. Extracts and quotations should be single-spaced, nodded, blocked,

cleaned with a good grade of carbon tetrachloride, indented five spaces, and then bottled under seal for use next winter when canned radishes may become very rare and your rationing card is all tuckered out anyway.

9. A green jacket is slipped on all important letters, cut preferably without lapels and cuffs. There may be spats but the stenographers can fight that out for themselves. If an incoming letter arrives wearing a pink jacket be sure to get it out of the office the same day it comes in, or people will talk. If they do, contact Joe and tell him all about it.

USDA WAR BOARDS (Cont'd)

1941. This meant a drive to contact practically all of the farmers in the U. S. The War Boards were the spark plugs of that drive. Under their supervision virtually every farmer in the U. S., with the assistance of a county and community Triple-A committeeman, drew up his own 1942 farm plan for winning the war. And remember -- there are 6 million farmers, -- more than 30 times as many farmers as manufacturers. To get them all at work is a big job of subcontracting. The War Boards have the tremendous job of staying right on top of this situation until the goals are reached.

Shortage problems: Take labor shortage, for example. The War Boards are working with the U.S. Employment Service. They're registering all agricultural workers and making a survey of farm labor needs, and supplying draft boards with lists of types of agricultural production considered essential. Consider the scrap shortage. The War Boards succeeded in rounding up two and a half billion pounds of old iron and steel from American farms. Machinery shortage: under supervision of the War Boards, farmers took inventory of available machinery, of new machinery needed, and of repairs required to put existing machinery in best possible condition. This information was turned over to the WPB and used by it in priority orders on new machinery and repair parts.

The farmers are doing the gigantic job of producing . . . the War Boards are streamlining that production . . . the rest of us are rendering desk service, streamlining the War Boards. This is total war, and it'll take all of us working together to win.

"Off with her head!" the Queen shouted at the top of her voice. Nobody moved. "Who cares for you?" said Alice. "You're nothing but a pack of cards . . ."

A recent item reported that annual and sick leave records of 600 FSA employees had been lost during the decentralization move to Cincinnati. These records have not been lost. The cause of the misunderstanding can be traced to a pack of 600 blank leave cards which were misdirected.

Wilson's Wings

As was mentioned in *What Came Out of Blodgett's*, the first Commissioner of Agriculture was Hon. Isaac Newton, chief of the section of agriculture in the Patent Office. Newton didn't have a building of his own, but he did have an experimental farm of 40 acres lying between 12th and 14th Sts., S. W. and B. St., S. W. and the canal (now Constitution Ave.). In his January 1864 report, Commissioner Newton noted that he had been unable to use this tract as a farm because the War Department needed it as a cattle-yard for army supplies.

Separate offices for the newly established Department were not provided until 6 years later in 1867 when \$100,000 was appropriated for the erection on the farm of an office building. This was the red-brick building that so many in the Department still remember. Under its mansard roof was the small laboratory of Theobald Smith who discovered the cause of Texas cattle fever.



In 1880 Commissioner Le Duc recommended a larger Department building on the same site. The design proposed by him was a turreted, rectangular parallelogram, 500' x 1,000' with an enclosed court for the display of agricultural implements. Excavations were dug, but Mr. Le Duc was succeeded by Commissioner Loring and the plans were killed. An appropriation of \$25,000 provided for another red brick building 25 yards southeast of the east end of the mother brick. Here lived the Seeds Division on the first floor (until Secretary Morton exiled this function from Agriculture and designated the lower story for the Divisions of Entomology and Biological Survey); and the Division of Statistics on the second floor.

Several other structures mushroomed on the grounds, the majority of which were built by carpenter Halley, from the Department contingent fund. Altogether, not more than \$210,000 was expended for buildings up to Tama Jim Wilson's administration.

Secretary Morton (1893-1897) turned back to the Treasury \$2,-066,661.19 and strongly recommended that the amount so saved be applied to the erection of a new Department building.

And now we turn to Tama Jim Wilson, appointed by President McKinley in 1897.

The year is 1901.

Tama Jim was still Secretary of Agriculture. Under this farmer-teacher Scotsman from Iowa, who had been raised on "thrift, Psalms and oatmeal," the Department had grown into really something, and not just a thing of ridicule and a convenience for Congressmen who had used it to furnish seeds for their constituents. Under Tama Jim the Department acquired dignity, prestige and a scientific reputation that made it the most distinguished and most respected agency in Washington -- all this, and two wings, too.

And it is about these two wings and a hole in the middle that we propose to tell you; about a building scandal that shook the Congress to its caucus; about a forerunner to Mellett's Madhouse that we shall call Wilson's Wings.

In 1901, an appropriation of \$5,000 was made for the selection of architects to plan a new building. A competition was conducted and the award made to the firm of Lord & Hewitt of New York City for a very charming classical design, not at all adapted for laboratory purposes. Nor did the architects consider that the Department might expand.

A Department committee composed of B.T. Galloway, D.E. Salmon and A.C. True, drew up a sketch showing a central building with 2 wings and extensions in the rear across B St. (now Independence Ave.) covering all of the blocks between 12th and 14th Sts. These men saw the Department growing, but to the elegant architects the sketch looked like a "school of fish." Joe Cannon, representative from Illinois, disapproved too. He wanted the one pretty building, and he wanted it placed right in the middle of the Mall -- because he was opposed to the L'Enfant plan of terracing Washington, and he thought that such an accident in the Mall would destroy L'En-

fant's symmetry.

But Teddy Roosevelt and Tama Jim Wilson approved, so the firm of Rankin, Kellogg & Crane of Philadelphia was commissioned to do the Wings, just south of the Mall, using the whole \$1,500,000 that the Congress had set aside for a whole building.

Excavation started (it would be fun to say it started in the dead of night, but we can't find any private papers to back us up!) and before the Congress knew for a certainty what had happened, two wings with a hole in the middle two buildings or parts of one building?

Tama Jim allowed Congress to churn a bit, then put on his most cherubic expression and requested an appropriation to fill the hole with a very handsome domed Administration Building. The Congress was so mad that it refused. The space was filled with flowers.

Over twenty years passed before Congress forgave the hoax, and now we have a middle building, a handsome affair with Corinthian columns and a patio (but minus dome); and all the rest of that "school of fish" -- all this, and two bridges and one tunnel, too.

Which is a story all of its own!

Editor's Note: We wish to thank Dr. W.W. Stockberger of the Secretary's Office for his exciting recollections and for the unpublished papers of B. T. Galloway which provided us with the "school of fish" details; and Mr. Francis J. P. Cleary of the Office of Information for his description of the early brick buildings, when the Department was in its early manhood and Mr. Cleary knew every nook because he was a messenger taking three steps at a time and earning the magnificent sum of twenty-five dollars a month at the age of 16.

Gee, but Congress was mad!

Motor Travel

OFFERED:

Los Angeles, Calif. June 15
Milwaukee, Wisc. June 15

Local:

Garrett Park or Kensington

WANTED:

Pittsburgh, Pa. June 14

Local:

Silver Spring

31st & Q, NW

16th & Irving

8th & Rittenhouse

15th & Farragut, NW

Adams Mill Rd. & Lamont St., NW

13th & Harvard, to Beltsville

N. Irving & Pershing Drive

14th & R. to Beltsville

Lee Hwy. & Kirkwood Rd.

EXCHANGE OF TRANSPORTATION:

Kaywood Gardens, Mt. Ranier
Oakcrest, Arlington

Glencarlyn

5600 Wilson Blvd., Arlington

WANTED OR EXCHANGE:

Owings, Md.

Cabin John, Md.

Tyson's Cross Rd. to Beltsville

• HIKING. The National Capital Parks conducts Sunday bird and flower walks, and Saturday afternoon hikes. For information, address communication to National Capital Parks, Department of Interior.

A movement is on foot to form a chain of American Youth Hostels, sponsored by the American Youth Hostel Association. Call Me. 0258 if you wish to take a trip with them.

Information regarding our own Hiking Club can be obtained by writing to the Exchange.

• SWIMMINGPOOL at the Ambassador Hotel is offering free instructions in swimming, diving, life-saving, and formation swimming to groups of 20 or more members. The regular rate of admission will be the only charge for this service. Arrangements can be made by calling Na. 8510. Attention ARA members.

• In 1939 traffic accidents were responsible for 28 percent of the fatal injuries to Department employees; in 1940 these accidents caused 40 percent of the fatalities; in 1941 the figure leaped to 55 percent.



INFORMATION FOR BLOOD DONORS

Since January the USDA Welfare Association and Local 2, UFWA, have been supplying the Red Cross with 40 to 50 blood donors every week. These activities have now been consolidated with the object of stimulating participation in this vital war-time activity. The present rate of blood donations is barely filling the demand. More is needed for the army and navy, and to set up blood banks to be used in case of bombings here at home. Your blood may save a life.

Blood donors should not eat fatty foods 6 to 8 hours before giving blood. This means no milk, butter, cream, salad dressing, eggs, bacon. You may eat cereal with skim milk. Fruits, vegetables, dry toast and coffee are recommended.

Blood donors should be in good physical condition. This means no colds, sore throats, skin rashes, or boils. You should not have had a tooth pulled during the previous two-week period, and never have had malaria or tuberculosis. Unless you are particularly robust only half a pint of blood is taken. Eight weeks should elapse between donations.

Arrange to join a blood donor group by calling Miss Anne E. McFadden, Supervising Nurse, Room 1038, South Bldg. - Ext. 5530.

• SHOTS FOR CIVILIANS. Doctors are advocating that civilians, as well as the armed forces, receive tetanus and typhoid "shots," and small-pox vaccinations as a precautionary measure against injury from possible air raids and against the epidemics likely to be prevalent under war-time conditions. Our boys in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps receive these injections free of charge when they are inducted. Your doctor will be glad to advise you, or if you belong to Group Health Association, call Republic 1575 for an appointment with your favorite doctor.

Group Health Association offers its members free protection against diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid, small-pox, whooping cough, and other diseases preventable through immunization.

• RED CROSS needs volunteers to prepare surgical dressings. About 100,000 dressings are being turned out monthly from the workrooms of the Walsh House at 2020 Massachusetts Ave, which is open evenings Monday through Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30.

This project requires more volunteers, and anyone willing to help is requested to report to the Walsh House on any of the first four nights of the week. Because of sanitary requirements, a regulation workroom apron (\$1.35)

is generally worn, but a simple white dress is permitted. A blue cap with white band marked with a red cross is required.

The District Chapter's workrooms also serve as laboratories where experimental work is done to develop special types of bandages - those, for example, required in aviation wounds.

• RED CROSS WAR-RELIEF UNIT of the Department is undertaking to raise a fund for the purchase of food packages for unidentified prisoners of war in German prison camps. These packages cost \$2.40 each and contain tobacco and concentrated foods to supplement inadequate prison diets. The donor's name goes with the package, plus a card to be signed by the recipient. Arrangements are made by Red Cross representatives who are allowed direct contact with prisoners in accordance with the 1929 Geneva Conference. The Japanese have failed to cooperate, so the Red Cross has been unable to send anything to their prisoners.

Contact Mrs. Havey in the Patio.

• "SUNSET SYMPHONIES" by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Potomac Water Gate will begin Sunday evening, June 14. Eighteen concerts will be presented, three a week, on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. A complete list of programs will be announced at an early date.

• PAN AMERICAN CLUB of the YMCA will give its annual Fiesta on Tuesday, June 9 at 8:15. The proceeds will be turned over to Camp Letts, the YMCA camp for boys. Tickets are 55 cents and may be obtained from Lillian Gagnon, Room 5090, Ext. 2857.

AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE

United States Department of Agriculture Employees Activities

Volume XV, No. 6

June 19, 1942

FOODS REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE

A Foods Requirements Committee with control over production and allocation of all civilian and military food supplies was established within the WPB on June 5 under the chairmanship of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard.

The new Committee will determine civilian, military and foreign food requirements and has authority to step up or limit the domestic production of foods as well as the importation of foods.

Secretary Wickard has assigned three officials of the Department to duties with the Committee: S. B. Bledsoe will be vice-chairman; H. W. Parisius will be director of the general work of the Committee; and D. A. Fitzgerald will be in charge of the Committee's work of making forecasts of food needs.

ELECTION OF EMPLOYEE MEMBER

The employees of the Department will soon vote for a member of the Agriculture Board of Review on Efficiency Ratings. Information concerning the election will be distributed to each employee, informing him of the time, place and manner of election. The term of office for the present members of the Board of Review expires June 30.

"GOLD RUSH" . . . TALKING AND SOUND TRACK ADDED

PLUTOCRATS PLEASE NOTE: OPA's not the only set-up with ceilings. The Credit Union is running over with spare gold, is aching to lend lots of it for provident purposes, and therefore does not covet and will not accept deposits in excess of \$10.00 per month.

IF THE BOSS CAN, WHY CAN'T YOU?

The music goes round and round. More and more employees are pooling their cars - saving tires and gas to beat Mr. Schicklegruber. Top officials have responded with enthusiasm and alacrity to the program. A few of the big names who swap rides with their neighbors are W. A. Jump, Director of Budget and Finance, Joshua Bernhardt, Chief of the Sugar Agency. T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel and Morse Salisbury, Director of Information. So far, the list of rotators has pushed past the 500 mark.

One of our poolers, a member of the Solicitor's Office, has this to say about his new habit:

"Perhaps as persuasive as any urgency to rotate car driving is the personal saving in tires and gasoline, not to mention saving in cash. Those of us who are now engaged in regular rotation have found that the extra effort of making mutual arrangements is very quickly offset by the creation of habit. Moreover, we are necessarily social creatures and the companionship on the daily rides is stimulating and pleasant. It is a bit surprising, perhaps, to find that some very nice people live in your own community, whose existence you hadn't suspected. What is most important, of course, is that we are doing something to help win the war."

And what about you and you and you? What are you doing to accomplish the President's goal of 100 percent "doubling up?"

If you are not already in a car pool, register today with your personnel office or at the Information Desk off the Patio.

If the boss rotates, why can't you?



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ROOM 4403 SOUTH BUILDING
PUBLISHED BY THE ATHLETIC AND
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Sophia PodolskyEditor
Signed contributions only ---
Subject to Revision

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

[The enclosure is something I saw in the lunchroom yesterday. While there is nothing unusual about it, it is just possible that some of your readers who were there at the time did not understand what it was all about. If it interests you, I shall be glad to tell of other things that come to my notice from time to time.]

The sound of breaking china followed the crash of the luncheon tray, rising high above the chatter of government employees in the cafeteria. For a moment there was silence. Those at nearby tables stared at the body of the girl lying sprawled on the floor. Then the hum went on as before.

A bus boy pushed the body under the table. Gathering the shattered china he disappeared.

In response to my enquiring look, the Manager bent down and said: "Just another stenographer. Shot by her boss. Couldn't read her shorthand notes, I understand. And after he'd been dictating to her for 7 days. But it's no good. He will just get another like her this afternoon. They come to Washington faster than the bosses can pop them off. But it is hard on our dishes."

With a shake of her head she moved on toward her office.

Dear Editor:

I am inclined to set aside 5 acres of my estate in Virginia for the raising of Virginia Victory Vegetables. The conditions are simple and to wit: Use of the land is free of charge; approved applicants must bring their own tools, seeds or plants and pay their own transportation and feeding expenses (there is an open fireplace available for wienie roasts etc.); 1/2 of the crop is shared by the owner; and unused surpluses will be donated to some charitable organization. Ask the Exchange about it if you're interested.

MEMORANDUM TO THE EDITOR

The Management Board, supervising the activities of the cafeterias operated by the Welfare Association of the Department, have been considerably puzzled to know why patrons of the 4th and 6th Wing cafeterias are willing to stand in line for periods of 15 to 30 minutes rather than patronize the new 5th wing cafeteria where the waiting period is usually not more than one-third as long. The same food is served from the central kitchen, the same prices prevail, and the equipment represents the last word in cafeteria facilities. The management is unable to understand the preference indicated by the employees for the older units and will appreciate expressions of opinion by readers of the Exchange.

Albert M. Day
President

Dear Editor:

I can understand your devotion to Joe, but I feel that we are neglecting Brown. Looking back over my 30 or 40 years with the Department of Agriculture I can say that some of my best friends are Browns. So it is that I have probed them with teasing needle and scalpel, securely fastening the split ventral ends on the dissecting pan, and centrifuging the rest. And always a Mr. Brown or facsimile thereof has filtered out, clear, colorless, beurocratic. Is this Brown not protoplasm I premised. . . is he not full of water, air and oil vacuoles, and is he not responsive to pressure points too? Or don't you think so? Or do you think he's sheer Beowulf? And if so, do you know about Mrs. Fisher's "How to Cook a Wolf?"

Brown would call me into his office every fortnight or so, knit one, purl two, and wistfully inquire: "Aren't you happy with us, Miss Zvvrscrt? Would you like to come at 10 instead of 9; don't you think you ought to step down

your stencil production from 3 to 2, Miss Z.

Brown was really a splendid chap and quite normal until it came to determining efficiency ratings, and in this one respect he seemed never to have the proper attitude or appreciation or appraisal. It got so that instead of the usual greeting of howdyoudo, doyou, he would pinch me and say with that jovial and memorable twinkle, and how is your appeal coming this year? It was a spontaneous joke that we kept alive for years. Me black and blue all over, and Brown wrinkled from twinkling.



Another thing. Bro didn't like it when I took my shoes off, even though it was fine for stenciling. He always wore his shoes which were so big I wouldn't take them off too.

He didn't like it when I paraded on the survival and multiplication of all of the Joes and Jo-settes. When you cut a worm in two there are two worms soon, and in quarters, there are four and so on, with many generations of happy unfrustrated worms, not schizophrenic and no psychoses. A starfish is the same. And I like best the sea cucumber, first cousin to the starfish, the slight vexation and it takes leave of its insides, then finds a cove wherein the seaweed blows and weaves a new insides.

What kind of talk was that Brown said.

But when Brown went back to where he came from, all Browns do sooner or later, we bought him a watch and put his initials on it, and Brown was touched and happy, and we were touched and happy too.

Miss Zvvrscrt

USDA LEGION AUXILIARY presents another bedside table to the crippled children's ward of Gallinger Hospital, and has ordered a wheelchair to be delivered to the same ward.

TENNIS MEETING in Room 3038 South Building on June 25 at 5:30.

P-43

Open the heart of Agriculture and you'll find a row of test tubes.

William Hatch's bill may have been derisively labeled a "horse-doctor's bill," but without the research of Agriculture's horse-doctors, many of the big medical discoveries of the 20th Century would have been delayed. We don't say that our boys wouldn't be guarding the Panama Canal if Agriculture hadn't discovered that yellow fever is transmitted by an intermediate host. Nor do we say that the livestock industry would be "kapoot" if hog #844 had died after Dr. Dorset had injected into it enough of a choleric pig's blood to kill 120,000 healthy pigs. There are lots of bright minds in our country, and these things would have been discovered in time. We do say that in this matter of scientific research, Agriculture is in front. All very quietly it has been going on for many years. Other agricultural activities make the headlines, but the heart is there, on page 23, and it's lined with test tubes.

And this is where "P-43" comes out of the wings.

In this age of priorities, P-43 is the open sesame for Agriculture's scientists. Early realizing the contributions which scientific research could make to the defense and war effort, the Department's scientific personnel sought ways to insure an available supply of scientific equipment for the continuance of vital re-

search projects during the emergency. Through the cooperation of the Chemical Branch of the Priorities Division (now the War Production Board), the National Academy of Sciences, and scientific bureaus of the USDA, what is known as the Research Laboratories Supplies Plan was put in operation on August 28, 1941, under Preference Rating Order P-43.

In accordance with this plan, an A-2 priority was assigned to any laboratory carrying on a research project deemed of sufficient importance by the Priorities Division and the National Academy of Science to warrant a preferred rating.

Serial No. 1 of Preference Rating Order P-43 was assigned to the Department of Agriculture soon after the inception of the plan. Since that time, the Department has endeavored to contact sources of scientific equipment to fulfill its major requirements. In the interests of science, a complete chain of supply has been established, with the extension of the coveted A-2 rating from Department to vendor, vendor to supplier, supplier to sub-supplier. Through now famous P-43, equipment has been secured for the four regional research laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering where research of current importance is in progress.

Too absorbed in the business of getting a parking place and an administrative raise and a reclassification and civil service blanketing under the Ramspeck Bill, we get too involved in the routine of 9 to 5:30 and lose sight of the heart of Agriculture.

THE LAND

(The following are excerpts from a Review by Henry A. Wallace.)

"The Land" was made in the Department of Agriculture by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Russell Lord wrote the script for it. The voice in the sound-track is that of the great documentary movie-maker, Robert Flaherty, who photographed and directed the picture for Triple-A.

Flaherty takes the whole face of our country for his canvas and paints with broad strokes, starting slow. You start with good land and stout houses and barns is Pennsylvania. Then you see trouble, soilwash, creeping in. As the picture moves southward to one-crop country you see more trouble, and the waste of the soil is reflected in crumbled shacks and mansions along the way. Now the story moves to its third phase -- human wastage. Malnourished, discouraged, spiritless people. Defeated, hopeless people. Wasted people. Wasted lives.

Moving westward now, we come upon migrants. In the Southwest we see some of the problems that arise around "factories in the fields." And now Flaherty comes to the final problem his picture poses: the displacement of hands and hearts and minds from agriculture by the increasing march of the machine.

In making this picture Flaherty has told us the story of a land which does not forgive misuse, either by machines or by men. It is a hard story, but true.

It is a story that will enter into the peace of tomorrow.



SUNSET SYMPHONIES

Complete plans for the "Sunset Symphonies" that the National Symphony Orchestra will present at the Potomac Water Gate for the entertainment of wartime Washington have been announced. All concerts will be given on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, beginning at 8:30, unless practice blackouts necessitate an earlier hour.

Tonight's concert is under the direction of Guy Fraser Harrison, and will feature Maria Gambarelli, premier danseuse of the Metropolitan Opera Association. Josephine Antoine, American Metropolitan Opera soprano will be featured on June 21. Part of Mr. Harrison's final concert on June 24 will be devoted to a gigantic community sing, inaugurated at the Water Gate last summer.

Subsequent programs include Jessica Dragonette, Argentinita, Spain's greatest dancer, Lily Pons, Andre Kostelanetz and Sidney Foster, 24-year-old American pianist, playing the Rhapsody in Blue and the Piano Concerto under Sylvan Levin's direction.

So bring yourself a cushion - the two bit seats at the Water Gate are slabs of cement; or if you're smart, you'll reserve a canoe at Dempsey's Boating House and paddle down to the floating shell. Best of all is to go early and take a picnic supper along. What more can mortal seek than to glide silently through cool, mysterious greenness, with supper of avocado and chile sandwiches and lemonade and brownies. Then moor yourself under the stars and the greater star and forget the struggle of today and of tomorrow, and boogie woogie and X cards, and rubber from the Russian dandelion, Kok-saghyz. And know only the beauty and excitement of the hour.

BIBLE SCHOOL will begin sessions in the Department Auditorium on June 25 at 5:45. The class will meet twice a week, on Monday and Thursday under the leadership of Glenn W. Wagner, President of the Washington Bible Institute. Tuition: \$4.50 for three-week term; Text: The Bible. For further information, write to Miss Ethel Vance, F. M. & C., or attend one of the classes without cost.

BASSOON SOLOIST FEATURED

The unusual experience of hearing the bassoon as the solo instrument may be effected at the next performance of the Department of Agriculture Orchestra to be presented June 23 at 8:30 P.M. in the air conditioned Agriculture Auditorium under the direction of Dr. Walter Bauer.

Franklin Biskey, bassoonist of the National Symphony Orchestra will play the cadenza part from "Legend" by the American composer Sigurd Frederiksen.

The program includes "The Night Remembered" by Bainbridge Crist; Bizet's "Farandole" from the Arlesienne Suite; Smetana's tone poem of the Moldau River ("Vltava"); and the "Romantic Symphony" (No.4) by Anton Bruckner.

Although the concert is given in cooperation with the National Defense Council for the special benefit of men in uniform and civilian defense workers, the public is invited to attend. No admission charge.

Four bureaus have responded to our PRISONERS-OF-WAR fund which was described in the last Exchange.

AMA employees have contributed \$79.35; Extension Service, \$65.85; BPI, \$47.35; and Dairy Industry, \$35.75. This means that 100 men suffering from malnutrition and monotony in German prisons will receive packages containing cigarettes and concentrated foods.

NUTRITION CLASS will be organized if enough employees are interested. Sign on the Bulletin Board in the Patio, or phone Mrs. Havey, Extension 6229.

SPANISH LUNCHEON CLUB meets on the 24th in Rm. 6932 at 12 to hear Alfonso Echeverria, young Chilean, who has been awarded an Inter-American Trade Scholarship to study the dairy industry in the United States.

After an orientation period of a month in the research lab of the BDI, Mr. Echeverria will work in various dairy plants throughout the States.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Twenty-five years ago a handful of Government employees banded together to appeal to the Congress for pay adjustments to meet the skyrocketing cost of living precipitated by World War I.

This year, the National Federation of Federal Employees, the product of this pioneer group, is celebrating its Silver Anniversary. It has changed much since its modest beginning in 1917, and so have conditions of Federal employees.

Now, history has repeated itself. Once more we are at war. Once more the Government employee is finding it hard to make ends meet under war conditions, finding it a struggle to live on the same salary despite OPA's effort to maintain a brake on prices. Ceilings are fine in a garret, but don't mean much when they tower into auditorium proportions.

The N.F.F.E. has gone on record as favoring a flexible salary scheme which will provide a "cushion" of salary between the cost of living prior to the present emergency and the rising cost that is only too apparent now.

DINNER MEETING OF ALPHA KAPP PSI Fraternity will be held at Wesley Hall, 1703 K Street, N. W. on Wednesday evening, July 1, at 6:30 P.M. All members or former members who wish to attend may get further information from Mr. J. J. Somers, Extension 3444.



FSA IN CINCINNATI. Comes news that the USDA Club met, bringing together for the first time representatives of the FSA and other agencies

in Cincinnati.

Augmented by 600 new FSA members, the USDA Club expects an increasingly active organization during the coming year when its officers will be: --

President: Dr. George S. Mitchell
Assistant Administrator of FSA
Vice-President: Earl P. Conners
Hamilton County Ag. Cons. Assn.
Secretary-Treasurer: Don Stephens
Acting Chief Personnel Officer

AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE

The United States Department of Agriculture Employees Activities

Volume XV, No. 7

July 16, 1942

IT'S FUN - AND SAVES TIRES, TOO

Dr. Joshua Bernhardt: "Mr. Boyd, Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Mr. Tyler, Solicitor's Office, Mr. Molander of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry, and I all concur in saying that it is too bad to find out it took a war to bring about economizing in gasoline and tires. There are, of course, certain difficulties in tying in different hours of leaving but that is, after all, a small sacrifice to make for our war effort."

T. Roy Reid: "The Share-Your-Car-Plan works well. It is not inconvenient, although it does make necessary closer scheduling of work. It offers an opportunity to meet transportation needs without having any undue difficulties connected with it."

W. A. Jump: "I am now riding in a car-sharing group and find it not only a thoroughly practical plan for saving our irreplaceable tires but also a very pleasant and experience. I have made some new friends among our departmental group -- fine folks that I had never met before. I hope the Office of Personnel will continue to act as the clearing house in this matter as there must be a good many other people in the Department who would like to form car-sharing pools. I think it is one of the most useful services the Department can render its employees at this time."

Henry A. Donovan: Messrs. I. W. Duggan, C. R. Peck, M. B. Storer and I have been able to adjust our working arrangements with a minimum of difficulty. Over 70 persons of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering are now sharing Department parking spaces, which means that there is an average of about four persons for every Bureau parking space."



VICTORY

DE FACTO OR DE JURE?

A new fiscal year set dark and fundless for Agriculture. The *New York Times* heralded the turn of the monetary year with the headline: **AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT BROKE.**

"The Department of Agriculture will face the new year, technically at least, without a dime with which to operate."

Six hundred and eighty million dollars remained deadlocked in conference pending settlement of the sale of surplus grain by the Government at less than parity prices.

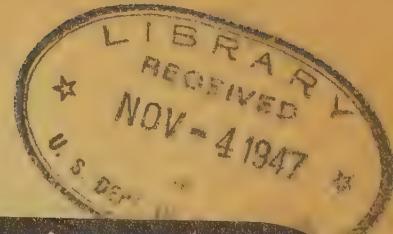
House conferees refused even to agree to a resolution which would permit the Department to operate on funds remaining from last year. Senate conferees were equally insistent upon sale of corn and surplus wheat at 85 percent in accordance with Administration wishes.

Conferees were urged to "think it over" and at least decide on a continuing resolution.

July 1. Dawned the new fiscal year. Agriculture's doors were open and Agriculture streamed in. They were offering their services voluntarily, --hoping to be paid--technically a violation of the Voluntary Services Act which does not authorize pay for voluntary services. However, if the paying authority blunders and issues payment to voluntary workers, the Comptroller General has ruled that there can be no recovery since employees are *de facto* (actual employees) and not *de jure* (by law) and, therefore, eligible to retain their pay on a *quantum meruit* basis (payment for work done).

More than willing, Agriculture worked as *de factos*, relying on the mistake of the paying authority and the Comptroller's ruling.

(Cont'd page 3, column 3)



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ROOM 4403 SOUTH BUILDING
PUBLISHED BY THE ATHLETIC AND
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Sophia Podolsky Editor
Contributions subject to editing
DO NOT PHONE WRITE

EDITORIAL

All along we have been receiving letters, some signed, some anonymous, complaining about the Exchange. Which leads us to declare our editorial policy:

We want a sheet that will reflect employee interest in Agriculture's war effort: lend-lease, dehydration, war bonds, rotation, salvage programs, production now, conversion, conservation.

We want a sheet that will be bright and alive, that will not be afraid to jive such grim subjects as efficiency ratings, style manuals, administrative churning, and supervisors, - some with four feathers, some with three, all "snapping their fangs."

We want to lure you with cuts and drawings, and help you plough through these green columns artistically, and think of farmers and farmers' wives while you're doing it.

We want to dig into the archives and trace the beginnings of the Farm Department from Blodgett's to now.

We want to tell about the latest books written by our staff members.

We want to present a recreational program that will cut the strain of all day in our office and provide good fun and exercise.

We want to give our readers a spot of relaxation and a chuckle.

And we want the Exchange to be a good piece of writing.

Boldly and innocent-
ly we set out -- without staff or guidance or knowing, to accomplish these things. And what happens?

One of our readers chides us (and we believe very sincerely) for using "contributions" which are "good examples of the striv-
ing for the bizarre and grotesque

which characterizes a sizeable percentage of the current output in music, dancing, art (so-called), and literature.

"... have you considered," he asks, "the possible effects if these were placed in the hands of certain Congressmen unfriendly to the Administration or critical of government personnel? Suppose they were inserted in the Congressional Record with a similarly sarcastic speech about the probable quality and value of employees who spend their time writing and reading material of this sort during a grave national emergency? Is it not possible that such a legislative presentation might change the vote on a pay raise or some legislative item affecting the status of government employees?

"... is this," he continues what the employees need under present conditions of extra work, grave national peril, and uncertainty as to the future? Could not the same space be better occupied with a series of items on what employees can do to step up production, to save in scarce and expensive materials, to heighten morale within the various agencies, and to make for a greater mutual helpfulness?"

First: Employees do not spend their time writing the Exchange. Would that they did! The editor wouldn't have such a chronic headache. Further, the Exchange is an after 5:30 affair -- and far into the night.

Second: We think even an "unfriendly Congressman" might enjoy the Exchange. But we cannot conceive of crashing the Congressional Record, even though we have been picked up by Newsweek, the Journal of Foreign Service and the Washington News. Certainly no one can find the Exchange responsible for the legislative tangle snarling enactment of the Agriculture Appropriation Bill. Nor for a payless payday.

Third: Of course we feel deeply about the national emergency. Shall we go inside, pull down the venetian blinds and eat worms until it's all over?

Long faces won't win a war, nor will a ban on fun. What we need after long, intense hours devoted to national war tasks is a light touch that will take our thoughts away from the hammer blows of all-out war. We need something light-hearted to freshen our minds and spirits for these war tasks.

Another reader also feels that "certain gentlemen on the Hill" will seize our little green sheet "with glee -- as a glaring example of waste of paper, flippancy in Govt. publs. and what not - Does this type of contribution have to be used? I don't find it excruciatingly funny --- in a Govt. publ., or is it a Govt. publ.?"

Answer. It is not a Govt. publ. Paper and typing costs are met from unofficial funds. Writing and editorial time are free.

All of which confuses and discourages us.

Is there anything dreadful in some gentle fun, especially when the aim is good and the target better (and the boomerang terrific!)

If you were raised on Robert Louis Stevenson the way we were, you'll remember Modestine, the sweetest, laziest, slowest donkey in the hemispheres. But a deft prick with a goad on her ivory-colored rump and Modestine was known to leap over the heaths. So with the things we've mentioned. Who knows? Perhaps we can be instrumental in eliminating the shocking pink and apple green carbons, leaving the wheat, chartreuse, shrimp salad, Eleanor blue, mauve, pater purple carbons to be filed in case the front office wakes up. Or we might be able to take the sting out of the unhappy business of efficiency ratings with such a goad as Modestine experienced. We might even be responsible for a squirrel with every desk. (Vol.XV No. 1.)

Perhaps we should have declared our editorial policy in the beginning. But we didn't know three months ago what we know now. We started out not knowing. But now we know. And our editorial policy is the same now as it was in the beginning because we've had encouragement to feel it's a good one.

Shall the Exchange be another victim of "war hysteria" or do you like it the way it is?



"Everybody, * * * AT LEAST 10%"

The "Minute Men" have descended upon us. Receive them with open arms and open purses for they are lovely young ladies with bonds to sell. War bonds to help your Government win the war.

The ground was ably softened by the Secretary of Agriculture in his memorandum to employees -

Said the Secretary: "A request to set aside 10 percent or more each payday means hard self-denial for many Department employees with fixed incomes. Nevertheless, we must if necessary reduce our personal and family living expenses to the plain necessities of health and strength in order to take part."

" * * * I hope that Agriculture can lead all departments in our response. Our slogan is "Everybody, Every Pay Day, at Least 10%."

Said a joint statement by the AFGE, ARA, NFWC and UFWA:

"Many of our co-workers are out in the front line now-- some won't come back."

"But there is a job to do on the home front, too. Because this is our war, -- that freedom shall not perish from the earth. We're fighting for the freedom to speak our minds, to worship as we please, freedom from want and freedom from fear."

"Victory will be ours only if all of us pitch in. Everyday we are telling others how to help win the war. Now it's our turn."

We know that some of our "Minute Men" have had to listen to sad stories of financial stress, what with prices popping through ceilings, and all sorts of personal obligations. But we're all in the same boat, and war bonds are the convoys that will guide us to victory. We've all got obligations, but the over-all loyalty right now is to our Government.

Said one enthusiastic "Minute Man" to her chief: "You must eat the minimum!" Nice going. This comes under the Department of Potent Patriotism. What we enjoy in the United States is worth eating the minimum for.



MEAT STAMPING RESEARCH

A recent OPA ruling specifies that beef and veal must be graded according to Government specifications. Wholesale ceiling prices will be related to the grades stamped on each carcass.

These markings "AA" for prime and choice grades, "A" for the better grades of beef and veal, and "B" and "C" for carcasses now graded "Commercial" and "Utility" respectively, will appear in half inch letters in harmless violet ink.

And here is where the Tempos on the Mall took a cue from the research brains of the Farm Department.

In 1906, at the time the meat inspection law was passed, all meats officially inspected were marked with a

label known as the Howard label, printed in a transferable ink on soluble gelatin.

These labels were not wholly satisfactory because they frequently failed to leave an imprint and at times could be removed and applied a second time.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture in the year ending June 30, 1907, spent more than \$158,000 for these labels which were manufactured by a private firm. It was estimated that if the Department continued to use these labels it would, owing to the greatly increased scope of the inspection, be forced to expend approximately \$500,000 per annum for marking all inspected meats.

Wet or dry, warm or cold

In the year 1906, Dr. Dorset, Chief of the Biochemical Division, devised a marking fluid which was harmless and indelible and which could be applied to meats, wet or dry, warm or cold, to produce a legible inspection mark. The saving effected by this fluid has exceeded several million dollars.

Por nada, OPA, we're glad to be of use!

Fiscal year blues (cont'd)

July 2. Still fundless. But this was not the first time in Agriculture's finance annals. It happened in the fiscal year of 1919 when the Department fund bill was not signed until October 1, 1918. In the interim, Agriculture was sustained by monthly continuing resolutions.

It happened again in the fiscal year '33 when it was delayed for 7 days and 7 nights. And last year's supply bill was passed on June 30 about 9 o'clock and signed on the morning of the first, leaving a fraction of a day fundless.

July 3. "An orphaned Agriculture was left without authority to operate as House and Senate parted company over a House attempt to frame a new bill."

Congress mad. Recesses until Monday. Employees receive checks for the June 24-30 period, and Budget and Finance Circular #585 warning them that the Department might not receive the 1943 appropriation by July 6, deadline for meeting July 8 payroll for more than 89,000 employees.

July 4. Appropriation three days overdue.

President Roosevelt steps into farm controversy in a letter to 7 farm leaders and religious leaders, stating that all persons opposing the Government's food program and sub-parity sale of grain to feed livestock will be held "to strict account" by the American people.

July 6. House closes shop in midafternoon without taking any action on continuing resolution for July funds.

July 7. Truce declared in farm war: temporary funds granted for 30 days. Temporary appropriations voted on the eve of payday for 12,700 Washington employees of the Department. Pleasantly surprised, officials of the agency said a White House signature may enable them to pay off at close of 8th. Some 67,733 employees in the field will be paid on July 15.

July 8. Agriculture de jure again.

"No me apure si quiere sacarme bueno."

TO THE WIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT

THE RED CROSS UNIT will continue to function in its patio headquarters throughout the summer.

MRS. CLAUDE R. WICKARD has expressed her approval of this decision reached at a meeting called by

MRS. PAUL APPLEBY who has been chairman of the unit since its organization last fall. Mrs. Appleby reported that the District of Columbia branch of the Red Cross has urged Agriculture's unit to keep working despite the ban on knitting and the shortage of woolen materials. Millions of garments are needed, not only for immediate use in all of the war-torn areas, but for the period of want which will follow the war. It is estimated that Russia alone will need one million garments by winter.

MRS. GROVER HILL will continue her work in the sewing division which has turned out no less than 200 garments in any one month since its organization. The high for one month was 800.

MRS. M.L. WILSON, chairman of the sewing division, has an interesting innovation for summer workers. A "clothes clinic" will be held on Wednesdays from 10 to 12, and you may bring your husband's worn woolen suits and receive instructions in rehabilitating them. The Home Economics Bureau has been experimenting with this type of re-tailoring at Beltsville with super results. An evening class will be arranged for employees.

MRS. R.M. EVANS whose husband left Agriculture to become a member of the Federal Reserve Board still carries on as records chairman. She enjoys the association with her friends in the department, she says, and will remain at her post "just to keep the record straight."

You will receive a phone call soon. Name the day you can give to this work. Or if you prefer your drawing room to the patio, you may take the garments home with you.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTED

The Board of Review of Efficiency Ratings has a new employee representative. His name is Donald R. Heggy, and he is an attorney in the Office of the Solicitor.

"I deeply appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me," said Mr. Heggy. "I want all of the employees of the Department of Agriculture to know that they will have a true employee representative on the Board of Efficiency Ratings."

RUSSIAN RELIEF FUND. "I'm glad to see that so many people hate Hitler," said Madame Litvinoff at the Water Gate scene of Washington's gigantic Russian relief program. Lowell Thomas passed the hat, making an auspicious beginning with eighteen hundred and fifty dollars worth of Hitler hate money for medical supplies. Let's pass the hat too, and even though our contributions must be more modest, let's give gladly to our allies. UNITED CHINA RELIEF FUND swells to \$1,922.89.

ALL-GERSHWIN MEMORIAL CONCERT will be held tomorrow night (July 17) at the Water Gate. This program will introduce to Washington the young American pianist, Sidney Foster, who plays Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and *Concerto in F*, while songs from the composer's *Porgy and Bess* will employ the vocal talents of soloists Dorothy Sarnoff, soprano, and Howard Vandenberg, Baritone.

MOONLIGHT CRUISE

You who have no gasoline, come and join your friends on the S.S. Potomac on July 23.

Under the sponsorship of the A.R.A., the Department's Employee Association, you will enjoy more than 3 hours of river breezes, free dancing, and various other distractions for 65 cents per person. Boat leaves 7th Street Wharf at 8:45.



Manchester, Conn. (AP) -- For two years Leonard Herman, Department of Agriculture clerk, has been the cause of a lot of leg-pulling among the agriculture experts.

Every year, the department employees get up a pool on the wheat referendum vote; each employee who participated chipping in for the privilege of guessing what percentage of the farmer votes will be for continuation of the wheat control program.

Last year, young Herman walked off with the pot and this year duplicated his 1941 feat, making him in all some \$40 richer. The reason for the ribbing of the experts is that Leonard Herman is a Brooklyn lad, born and reared in Dodger town, and by his own admission wouldn't know a wheat-field from a Louisiana canebrake. It's just that to any one who has spent his youth trying to figure out what the Brooklyn Dodgers are going to do next, figuring out what the farmers are going to do next is as elementary as two times two.

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ANY opportunity to save money on clothes and really get a good buy should be investigated. A. R. A. members have such an opportunity. The annual membership fee of 25 cents provides the means of enjoying some surprisingly large savings on good merchandise. Full information may be secured by calling Mr. James H. Lyman, Recording Secretary, A.R.A. on Ext. 2511.

USE of the TOWER HOUSE on the Potomac, planned as a Christian center to serve the needs of young people in the Government service, is offered to anyone who takes out a membership card. Write to Miss Rebecca Dial, 1852 Kalorama Rd.

USO launches club for WOMEN WAR WORKERS. Recreational facilities at the club's headquarters, 1814 N St. N.W., feature an auditorium, kitchen, and bedrooms where war workers may stay at a nominal rate. Square dancing, hiking and social evenings are among the activities planned.

"The American people have always had guts and always will have."

Vice President Henry A. Wallace

# AGRICULTURE

## United States Department of Agriculture Employees Activities EXCHANGE

Vol. XV, No. 8

August 19, 1942

### SOLICITOR'S OFFICE REORGANIZES

The Office of the Solicitor is the latest agency of the Department to be reorganized. In order to integrate the design of the office to the wartime structure of the Department, as well as to minimize budget expenses and to secure the most effective utilization of his staff, Robert H. Shields has, within four months after assuming the duties of Solicitor, completely revised the framework of his office, both in Washington and in the field.

### a half dozen Associate Solicitors

The most notable phase of this reorganization is the creation of a staff of six Associate Solicitors who are responsible for and report directly to the Solicitor on legal work related to the conservation, adjustment, and forestry programs; the Farm Credit Activities; the work of the Farm Security Administration; marketing and regulatory laws; Rural Electrification; and the general legal work of the Department. In charge of these respective functions are Donald J. Sherbondy, Robert K. McConaughay, Clarence I. Blau, Ashley Sellers, Vincent D. Nicholson, and Henry Hilburn. W. Carroll Hunter has been designated Assistant Solicitor in charge of the Department's litigation work and relations with the Department of Justice.

### ... and a dozen legal divisions

There have been created in the office 12 legal divisions and 1 administrative division. The field service of the office, also, has been substantially altered. In lieu of 44 separate field offices which developed as a result of sporadic expansion and augmentation, there are now 12 regional offices, each serving, insofar as (Cont'd on page 4, Col. 3.)

### AN OFF THE RECORD CONFERENCE

What do Government employees talk about when they get together? Well, they talk about bottlenecks, duplication of work, supervisors, incentive, management problems, need for cooperation among Government officials. Just like anyone else who works on an assembly line.

These were some of the topics discussed at the CONFERENCE ON BETTER MANAGEMENT IN WARTIME GOVERNMENT which convened at the Washington Hotel on August 12 and 13.

As usual, USDA was well represented, both in attendance and in those who participated in the program. Present were Roy Hendrickson, Agricultural Marketing Administrator, J.A. Piacitelli, of REA and Henry Farquhar of the Forest Service. W. A. Jump, Budget Officer, was Chairman of the session on "Increased Effectiveness Through Legislation and Executive Orders." Speakers of Mr. Jump's group included Senator Thomas of Utah, Donald Stone, Assistant Director of the Budget and Oscar Cox, Assistant Solicitor General of the United States.

Nor can we neglect to mention Milton Eisenhower, late of the Department and now Elmer Davis' right hand man, whose topic was "Some Specific Management Problems in Wartime."

The purpose of the conference was to emphasize that "putting the Nation on an all-out war basis must include putting the Federal Government on an all-out war basis -- peacetime methods must be stripped down for maximum effectiveness, peacetime functions must be reexamined to see if they serve the war effort \* \* \* much has been accomplished but much more remains to be done \* \* \* the conference will share the experience and ideas of today's leaders in good management in Government."

With its editorial feet firmly planted in the hearts of its readers, and all sorts of misunderstanding sloughed away, the EXCHANGE is more than happy to do the same for its official colleague, USDA, by transmitting some suggestions from its Editor.

Time was when there were a number of mimeographed and printed bureau house organs which kept employees informed on vital statistics, personnel notes, recreational activities, etc. These have been eliminated for the duration. From the urn rose USDA, a very handsome and sober white sheet, not to replace bureau house organs, but to reach all employees with the urgent war information we want to know.

Here are four pages, issued every fortnight. Here are 75 thousand readers, in Washington and the field; readers who want to know our part in the war effort. USDA's Editor wants contributions which will help employees get their war jobs done more effectively, examples of work done, of ideas borning. USDA isn't concerned with the employee activities we publicize -- hiking and knitting, bowling and jiving. Being a GPO job, which we aren't, our official colleague has to use his editorial clutch and gets degummed and decorticated all along the way, which we don't because we function in an extracurricular channel. So this is the editorial that our colleague can't write.

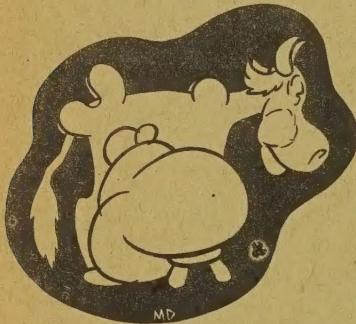
USDA has a real job to do, and a big one when you consider that it is limited to 4 pages, that the whole staff is the editor. We know what that means. But it's not as sad as the oysters all gobbled up by the Walrus and the Carpenter. Because USDA can be telephoned to, in fact asks to be called and ploughed under with ideas and manuscripts. Arch Robertson is listening. He wants to know what you know. And he's not the enemy. Ext. 4875.

THE AGRICULTURE EXCHANGE  
ROOM 4403 SOUTH BUILDING  
PUBLISHED BY THE ATHLETIC AND  
RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
Sophia Podolsky .... Editor  
Contributions subject to editing  
DO NOT PHONE ..... WRITE

Dear Editor:

Every weekday I take a psychic bath twice a day in the steaming atmosphere of a cross section of American democracy in a crowded bus that hauls me to work and back, a total of about 10 miles. I like it. I can be a solitudinarian and think my own thoughts, or I can talk and hear talk. I can be as social as I will, or as mum and morose as I please. I hear and see things that make me glad and mad. Sometimes I pity the bus driver; sometimes I envy him. He has a metronome all his own and doesn't have to voucher his soul to the GAO for a spot in a Government office. He is usually a polite, good-natured man who does honor to his hard job.

My round-trip bus ride is a discipline that democratizes. I share rubber tires with lots of people. Jeff.



\*A CLIP sheet from the USDA brings the news that \$500,000 a year is being saved by marking Federally inspected meats with an indelible purple fluid instead of with gelatin labels. This hopeful economy became effective shortly after June 30, 1907. We wait with eager interest to learn whether the Department of Agriculture has thought up any other way of saving money in the 35 years since then. (News Editorial)

Mr. John T. O'Rourke  
Editor, The News

Dear Mr. O'Rourke:

Sure the Department of Agriculture has thought up other ways of saving money in the past 35 years.

Take, for instance, dehydrated foods. Food that would have taken 4 to 6 ships to carry abroad now goes into one ship. I leave it to you to figure what that means in the present situation. We don't

by any means claim all the credit for developing dehydrated foods, but we have helped a lot.

Again, there is brucellosis of cattle, otherwise known as Bang's disease, or contagious abortion, the germ of which causes undulant fever in human beings. At present, reactors to the brucellosis test are slaughtered; last year there were 182,000 of them, with an average value of \$93.28. Recently we developed a method of calfhood vaccination which promises to save immense numbers of animals in the future.

Or consider hog cholera. In a bad outbreak, 10 percent of the hogs in the United States used to be wiped out -- equivalent, say, to 13 million people being killed by a single disease. Simultaneous inoculation, developed by the Department, now keeps this plague under much better control. The discovery of crystal violet vaccine is a new improvement.

Apples -- premature dropping of the fruit has always caused large losses to producers. Recently the Department developed a hormone spray that outwits nature, keeps the fruit on the tree until it is properly colored. Judging from the way growers are using it, they think it is good stuff.

I don't want to bore you or I would go on with many more cases.

Sincerely, and thanks for the attention to the modest handout on branding meat,

Gove Hambidge  
IS NOTHING SACRED? DEPARTMENT

Just anybody can't be a ghost writer. To achieve this status requires a state of decomposition that takes considerable spiritual manipulation in private to get on the beam.

One chap we know, after undergoing unmentionable hardship, managed finally to materialize a ghost which proved to be addicted to the soil, but was wholly illiterate. There is very little you can do with a ghost like that except to dematerialize it and use the residue for a cup of strong yerba mate. Most ghost writers are themselves so enfeebled and anemic that they can rarely control a full-fledged synthetic ghost. This accounts for some of the things you read signed by the most respectable and influential names in the government service.

Some ghost writers, lacking the spiritual requisites necessary

to conjure a legitimate ghost, have been caught whipping around their offices draped in dirty sheets in the hope that automatic ghost writing will result. A pen is gripped firmly in the right hand to drain anything that happens to leak, and some of it belongs in the drain and very little in the government literature of the period. For nothing beats the natural giftie.

So much for the metaphysics of metamorphosis. And now the conference. The gifted ghost writer wafts gently into the presence of the eminent personage, weaves a circle round him thrice, for he on honey dew has fed, and topped the topless towers of Ilium. For an hour, broken by phone calls, hurried confidences, moving men, applicants for jobs, schoolmates from Des Moines, etc., he wallows in the rich verbal debris that clutters the feverish brain. The seance is further distracted by the personage's eminent secretary who bounces into the charmed circle with a standing broad jump, laden with all manner of the master's matter from which is to be salvaged a sentence or so, forgetful of the fact that all of that was ghosted too.

Have you ever seen a ghost stagger? Ours does -- back to his own garret, garlanded with gargoyles, and composes 10 pages as requested -- just enuf to fill a 10-minute ghost to ghost hook-up, (ouch!) but when he takes it in for approval he discovers that the personage has succumbed to a new approach, has gone into a trance himself, and has produced 11 pages which the writer is now asked to combine with his 10 pages to make a total of 10. Our ghost is well trained: he reduces the mass to 10 pages, shows it to the personage who reads it lovingly, for now he believes he wrote it himself. But there are just three more ideas that must go in.

Ultimately the whole is reduced to 11 pages and our effete ghost leaves exhausted to debauch the evening on barley water. The next morning he prunes to 10 pages and just as he enters the office of the personage, the secretary sings out: "The chief threw your speech away . . . decided to talk off the cuff . . . he says you can forget about it, and thanks a lot."

The writer resigns. This is called giving up the ghost (ouch # 2!). This is about all anybody needs to know about ghost writing if he is in his right mind.



### THREE CHEMISTS FROM ARGENTINA

It's too bad. They're gone, gone to Philadelphia, and then New Orleans, San Francisco, Peoria, and they won't return to Washington until next June. They're three young chemical engineers from Argentina -- with "stars in their eyes" -- in the States for a year's study of the industrial utilization of farm products. They are Carlos Zarate and Oscar Saturnino Mallea of the University of Santa Fé, and Dr. Enrique Duprat of the University of Buenos Aires. The arrangement to study and work in the regional laboratories of the Bureau of Chemistry and Engineering was made by the State Department, the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and USDA.

The plan has the hearty endorsement of Secretary Wickard:

"Both for the present and the future," said the Secretary at the Second Inter-American Agricultural Conference in Mexico City, "the United States Department of Agriculture offers to the representatives of other nations, and especially to the nations of the Western Hemisphere, the services of its scientists, economists, engineers and technicians, and the facilities of its laboratories and experimental stations."

\* \* \*

We first saw them at Child's enjoying a round of beer, with watermelon, chocolate sundae and lemon pie.

Next met, they were in the library of the Bureau of Chemistry and Engineering, eager to tell about their reception in the Department and their impression of the organization, staff and laboratories.

"In brief," they concluded, we are learning many new methods and procedures which we expect to apply to the conversion of agricultural wastes and surpluses. We are happy to acknowledge the wor-

thy cooperation of the USDA. At the same time we are glad to express our deep appreciation to our colleague Dr. David J. P. Rice, who is simultaneously our professor and close friend."

One phase of their Washington sojourn bothered them. "Life is not as usual... too many monuments, not enuf living things."

Their English is coming along, only they wish we would speak SLOWLY, como un burro. When Ruby Black, interviewing them for a short wave broadcast to Latin America, explained that they would encounter all sorts of English - the Washington mixture, the Philly brand, the Peoria strain - our Argentine amigos replied wistfully: "We know only two kinds - the kind we understand, and the kind we don't."

Certainly, if the Good Neighbor policy is to replace the Colossus of the North, it will be best achieved by the presence of three such young men, with test tubes in their hearts and stars in their eyes.

But now they're in Philadelphia, and won't be back until June. Que lastima!

### THE PUERTO RICO EXPERIMENT STATION by Miguel A. Manzano

Mayaguez is justly proud of three things: its savory mangoes, its handsome women, and its Agricultural Experiment Station. And all three have, each in its own way, contributed to the charm of this tropical city. The savor of its mangoes and the beauty of its women have long been celebrated in poem and song. But it is the Experiment Station that has converted this debonair, provincial city into one of the leading centers for agricultural research in tropical America.

Not that cultural pursuits were unknown among us before the establishment of the Experiment Station. Indeed, Mayaguez has always been noted for the refinement of its intellectual life. But, in common with most Latins, we were deluded by an outworn cultural tradition. We were only too prone to look on Law and Medicine as the liberal professions par excellence. Agriculture? Why that's just peasants' drudgery! The achievements of the Puerto Rico Experiment Station did much to convince us of the fallacy of such a myth. We learned of the

value, the beauty, and the intellectual stimulus in the study of nature.

Years rolled along. A College of Agriculture was added to the Experiment Station; and youth from all over Puerto Rico, and even from neighboring Islands, came to Mayaguez for instruction. Recently, the establishment of the Institute of Tropical Agriculture has added to the significance of this city as a center for agricultural research.

Outstanding, indeed, have been the contributions of the Puerto Rico Experiment Station to the advancement of tropical agriculture. Men like Oscar Loew, D.W. May, van Zwaluwenburg, Gile, T.B. McClelland, and many others have left a tradition of work and achievement. The present staff have shown themselves worthy of their predecessors.

However, the men at the Experiment Station do not shut themselves off in an ivory tower. They are not apathetic scientists in quest of cold truth; but have generously given of their time and initiative to the progress of the community in which they work and live. Thus, the City and the Experiment Station have always worked together, in the most fruitful of cooperations. And who knows to what extent the remarkable success of the Puerto Rico Experiment Station is due to the charm and hospitality of Mayaguez, with its sweet, savory mangoes, and its handsome women.





## RED CROSS NOTES

The Red Cross protests that there is no "ban on knitting," as reported in the last *Exchange*. On the contrary, there is a great need for certain types of knitted garments. A shipment of layettes for refugee children is being held up pending completion of 23,000 toddlers' sets (sweater, mittens and beanie).

Five more bureaus have contributed funds for food packages for prisoners of war in European prison camps:

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Farm Security ---   | \$35.00 |
| Forest Service ---  | 33.60   |
| Chem. & Eng. ---    | 27.05   |
| Office of Inf. ---  | 14.40   |
| Bur. of Ag. Ec. --- | 25.00   |

Agriculture's total is \$376.80, enough to send 157 packages. Red Cross representatives assure us that the packages are reaching the prisoners.

Recreation rooms for service men can use old furniture and recreation equipment, especially games. Call 6269 if you have any contributions. A fund is also being collected for the purchase of baseball equipment for soldiers on local guard duty.

It will be possible to start another beginner's nutrition class about September 1. Hours: 5:30 - 7:30, two nights a week for five weeks, in the Patio. Call 6229.

## GO AHEAD AND FREEZE TO DEATH

Don't complain next winter when it's bitter chill if you can't get oil for your furnace. You've been cautioned for months to swing over to coal. And don't moan next winter when the owl, for all its feathers, is a-cold, if transportation is all tied up with strategic materials and you can't get any coal delivered. You've been advised for months to do it early. You might not like proverbs and parables shoved down your throat when the snowah, yes; ah, yes, indeed, Is white and beautiful, white and beautiful, but you know about a stitch in time, and grasshoppers fiddling, and squirrels storing nuts. You know these things. You also know that Coordinator Ickes has changed to coal.

Perhaps you're broke. Don't let that bother you. The Credit Union loves you and wants you to convert from oil to coal and order the coal today. The Credit Union has \$150,000 for such purposes. Call 5579.

\* "RECORDS FOR OUR FIGHTING MEN, INC." has been organized by Kay Keyser, Kate Smith, Fritz Reiner, Sigmund Spaeth and Gene Autry to produce records for our men in uniform. The idea is to turn in your old Alma Glucks, Chaliapans, Carusos, and anything else that is wheezy and worn. Send them to Rm. 5404 or put them in the boxes which you will find in the Patio and wings 4 and 7. They will be sold for their salvage value, and the funds used for the purchase of records produced and distributed by RFOFM, Inc.

Post 36 of the American Legion has undertaken to collect your old records. Help put a song in the hearts of our service men.

The Personnel Office is making a real and earnest effort to keep Department employees aware of the recreational facilities in Washington. Read the Bulletin Board in the Independence Ave. entrance to the Administration Bldg.

RECREATIONAL BULLETINS listing everything that could possibly amuse you can be obtained from Roby Stehr at the Information Desk.

REORGANIZATION (Cont'd from page 1) possible, all of the legal needs of the Department on the particular region.

## exit the "Pool Room"

One of the most revolutionary phases of the reorganization is the liquidation of the pool room. The gregarious environment that characterized the former status of the Solicitor's stenographers has been wiped out. In the new order they have been assigned to attorneys and are now indirectly responsible to the chief of the division and directly to the secretary of the division.

## diversity with Oomph!

An inquiring reporter might uncover anything in the Solicitor's Office, for the diversity of its legal work is boundless. Attorneys in some independent agencies boast about working in the field of regulatory law. Whereas such attorneys have but one such statute to interpret, attorneys in the Solicitor's Office have 29 regulatory acts to keep untangled. There are 3 corporations in the Department -- FCC, CCC, and FSCC -- allowing liberal opportunity for the "corporation lawyer."

Everything from whaling expeditions to taking pot shots at forest rangers crossed the legal path of Mr. Shields' lawyers. It is no small job to keep over 75,000 Department employees walking the straight and narrow. The cases handled in which employees are directly involved would make a bundle of novels. Some day we'll run a serial. Suffice it for now to say that the Solicitor's Office has been reorganized -- and how!

\* NEED a DOCTOR or DENTIST? Call Republic 6100, the Medical Bureau; or National 9651, the Board of Dental Examiners, and you will be provided with names of licensed practitioners.

\* FARMERETTES BOWLING LEAGUE starts in September at HI-SKOR alleys. Wednesdays at 7. Contact Gloria Jaerns.

NATIONAL CHEESE WEEK  
Aug. 22 -- Aug. 29